FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 8

12 January 1978

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Emergency Oil Meeting To Be Held in Tripoli	A	1	1/A7
Sixth AAPSO Conference To Be Held in Baghdad	A	1	1/A7
Palestinian Popular Conference To Convene	A	1	1/A7
'Arafat Receives Yugoslav Delegation in Beirut [VOP]	A	2	1/A8
Egyptian Military Moves Against Libya Reported	A	2	1/A8
U.S. Said To Agree To Hold Talks With Palestinians [Amman AR-RA'Y 12 Jan 78]	A	2	1/A8
Arab Jurists Prepare Case Against As-Sadat	A	3	1/A9
Arab War Industries Official Leaves for Paris	A	3	1/A9
UK Arms Sales to Arab Countries Approved	A	3	1/A9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

YAR Foreign Minister Meets With Al Khalifah	C	1	1/A10

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM Appeals to Boumediene on Saharan Issue [10 Jan 78]	C	1	1/A10

SAUDI ARABIA

Energy Secretary Schlesinger Arrives in Jidda	C	2	1/A11
U.S. Slowness in Supporting Dollar Protested [Kuwait AS-SIYASAH 9 Jan 78]	C	3	1/A12
Radio Predicts Failure of Egyptian-Israeli Talks	C	3	1/A12
Kingdom Agrees to Postponement of Arab Oil Conference	C	4	1/A13

UAE

Omani Minister of State az-Zawawi Expected in Abu Dhabi	C	4	1/A13

YEMEN--PDRY

Prime Minister Announces New Provincial Appointments	C	5	1/A14
Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit to GDR [cross-reference]	C	5	1/A14

YEMEN--YAR

Chairman Receives Message From Sudanese President	C	5	1/A14
Djibouti Leader Hassan Gouled Talks With Officials	C	5	1/A14

EGYPT

Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee Begins Meetings	D	1	1/B1
First Session Concludes	D	1	1/B1

MENA Report on First Session	D	2	1/B2
Committee Session on 12 Jan	D	3	1/B3
Israeli Proposals to Committee	D	3	1/B3
Weizman Call to Other Arabs	D	3	1/B3
'Low Profile' of First Meeting [Tel Aviv DAVAR 12 Jan 78]	D	4	1/B4
Efforts To End Discussions	D	4	1/B4
Mubarak Reports on As-Sadat Talks With Weizman	D	4	1/B4
Jerusalem Report on Meeting	D	5	1/B5
AL-AHRAM Reports Egyptian Peace Proposal	D	5	1/B5
AL-AHRAM: Israel Submits Second Working Paper	D	6	1/B6
Kamil Briefs Officials on Latest Developments	D	6	1/B6
As-Sadat Receives Eilts, Letter From Carter	D	7	1/B7
AL-AHRAM: Begin Should Not Miss Chance for Peace	D	8	1/B8
Mustafa Amin: Egyptian-Israeli Gap Still Wide [AKHBAR AL-YAWM 7 Jan 78]	D	9	1/B9
U.S. Jewish Leader Speaks to Journalists	D	11	1/B11
Licenses of Three Soviet Magazines Withdrawn	D	13	1/B13
Italian Senate Speaker Fanfani Meets As-Sadat	D	13	1/B13
Foreign Minister Receives British Ambassador	D	13	1/B13

IRAQ

Algerian Foreign Minister Arrives in Baghdad	E	1	1/B14
Delivers Message to Al-Bakr	E	1	1/B14
Concludes Visit	E	1	
UN Under Secretary General Arrives in Baghdad	E	1	1/B14
Briefs: Yugoslav Statistical Delegation	E	1	1/B14

JORDAN

Amman Reports Arrival of U.S. Congressional Delegation	F	1	1/C1
Meeting With Crown Prince	F	1	1/C1
Paper Sees Weizman Statement as Israeli Stalling	F	2	1/C2
Former UK Prime Minister Heath Makes Visit	F	2	1/C2
Received by Badran	F	2	1/C2
Meets With Crown Prince	F	2	1/C2
Information Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia	F	3	1/C3
Briefs: Ambassador to Indonesia	F	3	1/C3

SYRIA

Algerian President Boumediene Continues Visit	H	1	1/C4
Closed Talks Held	H	1	1/C4
Official Talks Resume	H	1	1/C4
Further Details	H	1	1/C4
'Arafat Joins Meeting	H	1	1/C4
Boumediene Departs	H	1	1/C4
Algerian Foreign Minister Reportedly Visits Iraq	H	2	1/C5
More on PDRY Prime Minister's Visit	H	2	1/C5
Statement on Visit	H	2	1/C5
PDRY Prime Minister Departs	H	2	1/C5
Foreign Minister Makes Statement to Italian Paper	H	3	1/C6

Further Details	H	3	1/C6
Speaker, Foreign Minister Meet With U.S. Delegation	H	3	1/C6
Syria Reportedly Receiving Sophisticated Soviet Arms	H	4	1/C7
Prime Minister Presents Budget to People's Assembly	H	4	1/C7
UN Delegate Addresses Committee on Palestinian Rights	H	5	1/C8

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

Tripoli: U.S. Promises Egypt To Help Seize Oil Wells	I	1	1/C9
Egyptian, Israeli Ministers Toured Libyan Front	I	1	1/C9
Amman AR-RA'Y Interviews Ambassador in Amman [6 Jan 78]	I	1	1/C9

MOROCCO

King Hassan Receives Saudi Deputy Prime Minister	I	2	1/C10
Palestinian 'Rejection' Seen Playing Into Israeli Hands [Casablanca LE MATIN 4 Jan 78]	I	3	1/C11

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Receives Somali President's Envoy	I	4	1/C12
Government Accused of Abusing Its Power	I	5	1/C13
'Relief,' 'Joy' Seen Greeting Government Reshuffle [Tunis L'ACTION 27 Dec 77]	I	5	1/C13

ISRAEL

Begin Comments on Mideast Issues in Paris Radio Interview	N	1	1/D1
Begin, Ambassador Lewis Discuss Political Committee	N	3	1/D3
Begin Sends Messages to Britain's Callaghan	N	3	1/D3
DAVAR: Prime Minister Begin Rebukes Sharon [11 Jan 78]	N	3	1/D3
Sharon Expresses Views on Government Policy	N	3	1/D3
Ben-Elisar Returns From Visit to Romania	N	4	1/D4
DMC Council, Yadin Discuss Peace Plan	N	4	1/D4
POST Quotes Yadin [12 Jan 78]	N	5	1/D5
POST: Opposition to Peace Plan Not Materializing [12 Jan 78]	N	5	1/D5
U.S. Student Held on Suspicion of Terrorism	N	6	1/D6
Egyptian Political Delegation Adviser Comments on Talks	N	6	1/D6
DAVAR: Israel Does Not Reject Exchange of Territory [11 Jan 78]	N	6	1/D6
Israel To Demand Reduction of Egyptian Army [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 11 Jan 78]	N	7	1/D7
Alinement Knesset Faction To Act as United Body [DAVAR 10 Jan 78]	N	8	1/D8
Israeli Settlers, Druze in Golan To Cooperate	N	8	1/D8
Energy Minister Comments on Drilling in Sinai	N	8	1/D8
Oil Potential Noted	N	9	1/D9

IRAN

Shah Receives Group of American Senators	R	1	1/D10
Kurt Waldheim Meets With Prime Minister Amuzegar	R	1	1/D10
Trade Relations With Denmark, Italy Restored	R	1	1/D10
Ayandegan Comments on Iran's Role In Mideast	R	1	1/D10

SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH

FRG Official Promises Development Aid to Bangladesh S 1 1/D12

INDIA

Desai Discusses Nuclear Policy, U.S., Australia Visits S 1 1/D12

NEPAL

PRC Vice Premier To Make Official Visit in Feb S 2 1/D13

PAKISTAN

Callaghan Arrives in Islamabad From India 11 Jan S 2 1/D13
Begins Talks With Haq S 3 1/D14
Haq Discusses Election, Exchange of Visits With Desai S 3 1/D14
Pakistan Dissatisfied With French Nuclear Plant Delays S 4 1/E1

SRI LANKA

SUN Reports Indian Poaching in Sri Lanka Waters [3 Jan 78] S 5 1/E2

I 4n 8.36-8-6 PrEx 7.10:FBIS-MEA-78-8

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CONTIN

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EMERGENCY OIL MEETING TO BE HELD IN TRIPOLI

LD081852Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 8 January--Iraq, Algeria, Kuwait and the UAE have agreed to participate in the emergency session of the 10th Arab oil conference to be held in Tripoli early next week. Sources at the Secretariat for oil have told JANA that 65 subjects covering all aspects of the oil industry will be presented to the meeting. Preparations are in full swing by the various committees to insure the success of the session. It is noteworthy that the emergency session of the 10th Arab oil conference is being held in Tripoli at the invitation of the Jamahiriyah.

SIXTH AAPSO CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN BAGHDAD

JN091433Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 9 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 9 January--AAPSO Vice Chairman 'Aziz Sharif has stated that the sixth AAPSO conference will be held in Baghdad on schedule in March. Sharif added that preparations for this conference are continuing and several delegations have left for Afro-Asian countries to make the final arrangements for the conference, which will discuss As-Sadat's trip to occupied Palestine and the subsequent capitulatory steps which are exposing the Afro-Asian peoples' struggle to genuine perils.

'Aziz Sharif, who is also the secretary general of the Iraqi National Council for Peace and Solidarity, further said that the sixth conference of the organization will discuss the requirements of Afro-Asian struggle and solidarity, Arab reactionary collusion with the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the Arab liberation movement, the Zionist-imperialist aggression against the Arab nation and support for the Palestinian Arab people's struggle for returning home and self-determination.

Concerning the African liberation issues, Sharif said the conference will discuss means to support the struggle of the peoples in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, world peace issues, the security of peoples and intensification of the struggle against fascism, imperialist influence and its colonialist, Zionist and racist regimes.

Sharif said in conclusion that the conference will make the necessary decision to implement the resolution adopted by the AAPSO leadership at the meeting held in Benin in March to set up an Afro-Asian development center in Baghdad.

PALESTINIAN POPULAR CONFERENCE TO CONVENE

JN100934Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 10 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 10 January--Palestinian popular organizations and cadres of the Palestinian resistance in Iraq will hold the second Palestinian popular conference on Thursday, the day after tomorrow. Palestinian revolution sources here have stated that the conference will discuss the future of Palestinian national action, the participation of the masses in the struggle and political developments in the Arab region and the Palestinian arena, based on a report prepared by the political committee of the Palestinian revolution in Iraq.

The conference, which will last 2 days, will be attended by representatives of the progressive national and nationalist front as well as of Arab popular movements and organizations in Iraq.

The source explained that the report to be discussed at the conference stresses the need for setting up a united Palestinian national front according to a struggle program and to participate in current contacts aimed at establishing an Arab progressive front to oppose the settlement course in a practical manner.

Subcommittees on political issues, foreign relations and popular action will be formed by the conference. The first conference was held in Baghdad in June 1974.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES YUGOSLAV DELEGATION IN BEIRUT

JN111612Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpts] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, received in Beirut yesterday a Yugoslav delegation headed by (Rokomotov), vice president of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia. The delegation stressed the support and backing of the Yugoslav president, party and people for the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and for the right of this people to determine its destiny by itself and establish its independent, sovereign state.

EGYPTIAN MILITARY MOVES AGAINST LIBYA REPORTED

JN120950Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0905 GMT 12 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 12 January--Press sources here today confirm the reports that have been reiterated recently regarding military preparations of the As-Sadat regime on the Libyan border in preparation for a new adventure against it. Quoting an Egyptian military source, the newspaper AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI says that the As-Sadat troops have set up camps between Alexandria and the border with Libya. The paper says that the As-Sadat intelligence organs have prepared teams to carry out specific sabotage acts to disrupt the pumping operations of Libyan oil.

The paper also refers to yesterday's reports about maneuvers and military engineering work that have been recently carried out by the As-Sadat troops on the Libyan border. The paper says that these preparations confirm the new U.S. scheme in the area and the roles of the countries which are panting behind imperialism.

U.S. SAID TO AGREE TO HOLD TALKS WITH PALESTINIANS

JN120702Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Jan 78 p 12 JN

[Text] Cairo--AR-RA'Y office--Well-informed sources have disclosed that Egyptian officials recently received confirmation from the U.S. State Department that the U.S. Government has agreed on holding secret talks with moderate Palestinian leaders in order to study the best means to establish a Palestinian entity. These U.S. contacts are expected to start directly with the PLO. The contacts are aimed at pushing peace talks toward overall settlement.

These sources said that high-level Arab contacts are being held with the PLO to ascertain its final stand toward the current peace talks. The contacts also asked the PLO to change the paragraph in the Palestinian charter which calls for the elimination of Israel as a quid pro quo for PLO participation in the talks on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

ARAB JURISTS PREPARE CASE AGAINST AS-SADAT

LD071140Y Tripoli JANA in English 0834 GMT 7 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Baghdad, January 7, JANA--The Arab peoples congress currently meeting here has asked the Arab Jurists Union to prepare for a "trial" of the Egyptian ruler on charges of treason. The congress said the trial would be "an historical indictment of As-Sadat and be a lesson to deter other traitors in the Arab world wherever they may be." It said a special committee would study where and when to hold the trial and asked the Jurists Union "to devise ways of implementing the decision of the court."

The Jurists Union, also meeting in Baghdad, had studied the Egyptian constitution, the Arab League Charter and the constitution of the now defunct United Arab Republic, which linked Egypt and Syria, and found that the Egyptian ruler already committed crimes which call for a trial in addition to the fact that he has committed treason.

The Arab peoples congress was formed after the meeting in Tripoli last month of popular, political and professional organisations from all over the Arab nation. The congress permanent secretariat, in a statement, called upon all the Arab countries to unite in an effort to bring the Egyptian Government down, expel it from the Arab League and remove the league headquarters from the Egyptian capital. The statement, issued on conclusion of the secretariat meetings, also called for economic sanctions and boycott of Egyptian companies or organisations which violate the rules of the Zionist enemy boycott.

The congress secretariat also reiterated its support for the Lebanese nationalist movement in its efforts to maintain unity of Lebanon and protect southern Lebanon from the Zionist-isolationist endeavours to split the country. The congress permanent secretariat has its headquarters in Tripoli.

ARAB WAR INDUSTRIES OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR PARIS

NC091214Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 9 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 January--Dr Ashraf Marwan, chairman of the board of directors of the Arab military industries organization, left Cairo this morning for Paris for a visit of several days to France.

UK ARMS SALES TO ARAB COUNTRIES APPROVED

JN091147Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0835 GMT 8 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 9 January--The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS has reported that U.S. President Jimmy Carter [as received] has approved the sale of arms to three Arab states--Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan--by the United Kingdom. The paper said that draft agreements for the sale of arms worth 5 million pounds sterling to these states are in the possession of the British Government. The paper further said that Carter has also approved the sale of various weapons, including sophisticated ones, to the three Arab countries by European arms manufacturing firms in which the Americans and the British are participating.

BAHRAIN

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH AL KHALIFAH

JN111845Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Brother Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj, who is currently visiting Bahrain, today conveyed a message from brother Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, to his brother His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini ruler. He also conveyed the greetings of the chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces.

The Bahraini ruler asked Al-Asnaj to convey his warm greetings to the brother leader. The meeting was attended by the Bahraini foreign minister and our charge d'affaires to Bahrain.

The brother foreign minister also held talks with the Bahraini foreign minister. It has been learned that the talks dealt with practical steps which might be taken to restore the spirit of Arab solidarity.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM APPEALS TO BOUMEDIENE ON SAHARAN ISSUE

LD111800 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 10 Jan 78 pp 1, 19 LD

[Editorial: "A Word to the Algerian President"]

[Excerpts] We have wanted to address a special word to Algerian President Houari Boumediene since he began his current tour of the eastern Arab countries but have been unable to do so because of the conditions we have experienced. Moreover, we preferred to say this while he is with us as the guest of Kuwait.

We respect this man for on national occasions his voice has reverberated in our ears. We recall in particular his voice during the past two wars with Israel.

Today, while this man is with us, we wish to tell him frankly that we would like him to remain that clear and resounding voice in matters of grave national issues, a voice that is loud and clear and that does not confuse the issues.

Specifically, we want Algeria and its leader during this national dilemma to rise above any selfish interests in the current Arab-Israeli conflict.

We say this in the light of what is being said about the Algerian president's attempts to link his attitude on the present situation in the area to that of the eastern Arab countries to the current conflict over the Sahara. If this is true, this is something that we do not wish to see Algeria doing. The Arabs supported Algeria unconditionally during the revolution and afterward as a state. Algeria has always been their cherished one and the focus of their attention. They were inspired by it in their dreams of liberating Palestine.

Therefore, it would hurt the Arabs to hear that Algeria is now asking for their support in the struggle in the Maghreb in return for its attitude toward the Palestine problem. This indeed gives them pain and tortures them because, as we said, Algeria has a special place in their hearts and, therefore, must remain forthcoming in its support and the bulwark of the Arab united stand adopted at the Tripoli conference, the stand that affirmed the Arab rejection of Egyptian policy.

We in Ar-RA'Y AL-'AMM have always supported Algeria, and today we support it with regard to the Tripoli conference resolutions, because we refuse the course that the Egyptian policy is charting for us. We believe that an acceptable solution is one that emanates from the Rabat summit resolutions to which all the Arab countries, even the "silent ones," are committed. These countries have also declared their commitment to the Rabat resolutions.

Therefore, we want the Arab voice to remain united. We do not wish to be prey in the hands of the United States, or the Soviet Union, or Israel.

Therefore, we want the Algerian president to remain above all sensitivities and regionalism. We have always known him as an advocate of a united great Arab Maghreb, but now we see him advocating an independent state for a few thousand people in the Sahara. Do we need new statelets, and can we set such examples after we have seen the consequences and tragedies that have resulted from the breakdown of entities?

Therefore, there is no room for double standards in this problem: Cairo has chosen to dissent, which in itself is a tragedy. What is needed, then, is a major Arab uplift that will save the honor of the nation and will prevent flood and destruction.

President Boumediene's mission should be concentrated on this matter. He should, as he has often tried, seek to close the gap between Damascus and Baghdad and rally the Arabs in the desired front in order to defend the Arab east and the Arab cause so that this cause will not be determined in distant capitals, nor will Begin be able to humiliate all the Arabs in such an unprecedented manner.

This is the touchstone of the matter. With due respect, we tell the Algerian president that we want peace but we will not accept it willy-nilly; we want a Palestinian state and not a fiefdom; we want to remain Arabs worthy of our identity and of our glorious past history.

SAUDI ARABIA

ENERGY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER ARRIVES IN JIDDA

LD112042Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] U.S. Energy Secretary James Schlesinger arrived in Jidda this evening at the head of a delegation which is to spend a few days in the kingdom. During his visit he will hold talks with Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, about questions pertaining to oil.

Mr Schlesinger said that his visit is in response to an invitation extended to him by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister. It was agreed during the visit of the U.S. President Jimmy Carter that he should visit at this time to discuss a number of issues of joint interest.

He stated that his talks with Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani are to deal with energy questions and present trends.

Mr Schlesinger praised the stand of the kingdom regarding the question of oil prices. He said: The people and the government in the United States are grateful for this wonderful stand taken by the kingdom in recent years and appreciate its leading course within the recent meetings of OPEC. He stressed the agreement of all on comprehending the gravity of making a large increase in oil prices and its harmful effect on the economy of the industrialized and developing countries. He stated that such an increase might result in political consequences we all are trying to avoid.

The American energy secretary praised the importance of the meetings and the work of the joint Saudi-American committee for realizing cooperation between the two friendly countries in various spheres.

U.S. SLOWNESS IN SUPPORTING DOLLAR PROTESTED

LD111739Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 9 Jan 78 pp 1, 13 LD

[Text] Special dispatch--During his presence in Riyadh a few days ago President Jimmy Carter heard an official Saudi complaint about the slowness of the U.S. administration in backing the dollar in the international market. The Saudi Government submitted to the U.S. President detailed figures showing the amount of loss incurred by the kingdom and the oil countries in general because of the drop in the dollar, which is the only unit of calculation in oil payments.

Well-informed sources said that the U.S. President was told in Riyadh that the general belief is that the U.S. amministration probably wants the dollar to drop in comparison with the other industrial states in order to promote American exports and consequently redress the U.S. trade balance. The general belief in international circles is that the U.S. administration, even if it is not deliberately allowing the dollar to drop, is at least satisified with the situation and is not taking any real measures to stop its slide. These circles affirm that the statement which President Carter made after his departure from Saudi Arabia regarding the administration's wish to back the dollar was an immediate response to Saudi pressure. But this statement was not followed by practical measures to translate it into action.

On the other hand AS-SIYASAH has learned that OPEC's economic committee carried out a study on the economic effects of the drop in the dollar value and the losses the OPEC member states suffered as a result. The study, which was submitted to the recent ministerial conference in Caracas, shows that the oil countries have lost 19 cents in every barrel produced in 1977 in comparison with the dollar value at the end of 1976 and that of 1977. A quick calculation, for example, shows that Kuwait has lost $34.2 million because of the drop in the dollar on the basis of an average production of 1.5 million barrels per day.

RADIO PREDICTS FAILURE OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS

LD111636Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jan 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Summary] The Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee is meeting today. Egyptian emphasis is on the need for total Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and the removal of the Israeli settlements there. This Israel refuses to do, and in the past few days it has given the signal to build more settlements in the same region. "This provides further proof that the Israeli military establishment does not intend to do anything to bring peace closer to the region which for the past 30 years, as a result of Israel's expansionist policy and aggressive actions, has suffered tension and inflammability seldom experienced in any other part of the world."

In contrast to Egypt, Israel will try though its negotiators to take advantage of the present circumstances to perpetuate its occupation and add to its past gains, which it made by force and through the violation of the will of the palestinian people.

"We may confidently predict the failure of the aforementioned committee, because Egypt would not agree to a situation under which Israel occupies parts of Arab Sinai, where settlements have been built under the pretext of security (?purposes). Moreover, Israel does not intend to withdraw fully from Sinai; otherwise, it would not have started building new settlements there and in Rafah. Indeed, its leader Begin announced that he has acquired membership in one of the settlements situated east of Al-'Arish and that he now owns a house there."

The Israeli finance minister has said Israeli settlements could come under Israeli law and that the army would defend them when necessary. Moreover, under the Israeli peace plan, according to an official Israeli statement, the settlements between Eilat and Sharm ash-Shaykh and Rafah would remain there under any agreement. "Therefore, what results does the world expect from meetings of the Military Committee, whose first topics of discussion will be the question of the settlements? And what more does it expect from the meetings of the Political Committee, which will begin its work in Jerusalem in 3 days, and to which Egypt will go equipped with a comprehensive peace plan based on the need for Israel's total withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories in accordance with a fixed timetable and without the presence of any settlements, as well as on the need to grant the Palestinian people their right to determine their own destiny? This right is recognized by world public opinion and endorsed by the United Nations (?and) international law at a time while Israel adopts a stubborn stance, continuing its intransigence on the question of the Palestinian people, to whom it denies the right to return to their homeland and tries to deny any legitimate rights (?empowering) them to establish their own state on their own land. This is in addition to its rejection of the principle of total withdrawal provided by UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338."

"One thing that can be said about Israel is that it is now working within the framework of a big maneuver in an attempt to mislead world public opinion and make it believe that it is seeking peace." In fact Israel continues to cling to its expansionist ideas and therefore does not dare to make any serious move toward peace.

KINGDOM AGREES TO POSTPONEMENT OF ARAB OIL CONFERENCE

LD112322Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 11 Jan 78 LD

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has informed the General Secretariat of the Arab League of its agreement to the suggestion that the Arab petroleum conference set to be held in Tripoli on 26 January 1978 be postponed. Three Arab countries have agreed to the postponement. They are the Kingdom, the Yemen Arab Republic and Egypt.

UAE

OMANI MINISTER OF STATE AZ-ZAWAWI EXPECTED IN ABU DHABI

JN120954Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 11 January--His Excellency Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im az-Zawawi, minister of state for foreign affairs in the fraternal Sultanate of Oman, is due in Abu Dhabi tomorrow morning on a 1-day visit to the UAE.

While in the UAE, the Omani minister will hold talks with UAE officials on matters of mutual interest between the two fraternal countries.

YEMEN--PDRY

PRIME MINISTER ANNOUNCES NEW PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS

LD061955Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad has issued decrees appointing the following to the posts indicated:

'Abdallah Muthanna Husayn	Secretary, second governorate
'Abd Rabbuh 'Ali Salim	Secretary, fourth governorate
Muhammad Sa'id al-Burayki	Commissioner, northern province, fourth governorate
'Abdallah Ahmad Mikwar	Commissioner, central province, fourth governorate
Awad Musa'id Husayn	Commissioner, eastern province, fourth governorate

PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO GDR

For reportage on the visit to PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to the GDR, see the GDR section of the 12 January and subsequent issues of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

YEMEN--YAR

CHAIRMAN RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SUDANESE PRESIDENT

JN111749Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] Brother Lt Col Ahmmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, chairman of the Command Council and commander in chief of the armed forces, at 0900 today received His Excellency 'Abd al-Majid Bashir al-Ahmadi, Sudanese ambassador in San'a', who conveyed to the brother chairman a message from his brother His Excellency President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. The SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that the message deals with the current Arab situation and the need to intensify contacts among Arab officials for the sake of solidarity and unity of the Arab ranks.

DJIBOUTI LEADER HASSAN GOULED TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

JN101910Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Lt Col Ahmad al-Ghashmi, Command Council chairman, met in his office at the Republican Palace today with brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, Command Council member and prime minister. The prime minister briefed brother Al-Ghashmi on the results of his meeting with Hassan Gouled, president of the Republic of Djibouti, who passed through San'a' International Airport on his way to the Sultanate of Oman. The president of Djibouti was received at the airport by the prime minister and several officials.

The SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that the prime minister reviewed bilateral relations with the president of Djibouti. The prime minister said both sides explained their viewpoints on the topics of concern to the Arab homeland.

EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY COMMITTEE BEGINS MEETINGS

NC1117015Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 January--The meetings of the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee began at At-Tahirah Palace in Cairo at 1830 today. The Egyptian side is headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, and the Israeli side is headed by Defense Minister Gen 'Ezer Weizman.

First Session Concludes

NC1121315Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Jan 78 NC

[Text] The Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee will resume its meetings in Cairo tomorrow. The Egyptian and Israeli military spokesman held a press conference tonight after the conclusion of the first session of the Military Committee. The Egyptian military spokesman, Maj Gen Hasan al-Katib, said that Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, the deputy prime minister and war minister and leader of the Egyptian side to the committee meetings, spoke at tonight's meeting explaining that this committee stems from the Cairo conference and seeks to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and that this committee is discussing the question of reciprocal security between Egypt and Israel. He emphasized that peace will be established through a total Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

Answering a question on Israeli settlements, the military spokesman explained that the Egyptian side explained Egypt's point of view.

Regarding Israel's inclination to establish more settlements in the occupied territory, the Israeli military spokesman, David (Colts), said that this question is the subject of discussion and study by the Military Committee.

Answering a question on Israel's stand on the settlements in Sinai, the Israeli spokesman said that this is precisely the subject which is under discussion and that the committee will tackle it tomorrow and will discuss the Egyptian and Israeli views on this question.

Answering a question on who will discuss the situation concerning the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank, Gaza and southern Lebanon, the Egyptian spokesman said: This subject has not been and will not be discussed by the Military Committee. The Political Committee, which will meet in Jerusalem, will discuss this matter. If the Political Committee reaches any decisions, then the Military Committee might discuss this question.

Answering a question on what has been reiterated about Israel's withdrawal from Sinai in two stages, the Egyptian spokesman said: all this is speculation. No decisions have yet been made on this matter.

An Israeli source said that Israel has proposed five points to be included in the agenda of the Military Committee. These points are as follows:

1. Phased withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Sinai.
2. Geographical designation of the demilitarized zones in Sinai.
3. The position of the Israeli airports in Sinai.
4. Reciprocal observation and inspection measures, particularly the early warning systems.
5. The Israeli settlements.

MEN' Report on First Session

NC112247Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2213 GMT 11 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 January--Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi has stressed that there can be no peace in the Middle East without complete Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and that this includes the elimination of the Israeli settlements from Sinai. He added: "We do not accept their existence because they violate Egyptian sovereignty." General al-Jamasi was addressing the opening session of the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee at At-Tahirah Palace in Cairo this evening. General al-Jamasi said that this committee, which stems from the Cairo conference and which is aimed at establishing comprehensive peace in the Middle East, will discuss the question of reciprocal security between Egypt and Israel during its meetings.

Weizman then addressed the opening session. He said that President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem was historic and has actually begun to change history. In his speech Weizman reviewed his country's views on the topics to be tackled at the Cairo meetings. He said that the meetings will discuss the issue of the Israeli settlements.

He added: We will also discuss the question of maintaining open and free navigational routes in all the water close to our countries. We will also discuss the reduction of our armed forces. Weizman also explained the importance of securing open borders between the two countries.

After the 90-minute opening session, Egyptian military spokesman Maj Gen Hausan al-Katib and Israeli military spokesman David (Colts) held a press conference during which they said that the question of the Israeli settlements in Sinai was one of the main topics discussed by the committee tonight. They also said that the discussions on this topic will be resumed during the second session, which will be held tomorrow morning, Thursday, and that no decision has been reached on this issue.

The Egyptian military spokesman said that at the beginning of the session the Israeli side distributed its written statement and the Egyptian side delivered a statement. This, he said, was followed by discussions on military and security issues between Egypt and Israel, including the Israeli settlements in Sinai. The talks, he added, lasted for 90 minutes and were constructive.

The Egyptian military spokesman also said that the committee will resume its meetings at 1000 tomorrow, Thursday. During tomorrow's session, he said, Israeli Chief of Staff Gen Mordekhay Gur will talk about Israel's security problems, and this will be followed by a general discussion.

Answering a question about the other occupied territories in the West Bank, southern Lebanon and Gaza, the Egyptian spokesman said that this will be discussed by the Political Committee, which will begin its meetings in Jerusalem on Monday, after which the Military Committee may begin discussing this matter.

About reports that the Israeli defense minister may leave for Israel on Friday, the Israeli military spokesman said that so far he does not know when he will go back to Israel. He added that should the Israeli defense minister return to Israel the Israeli side at the meetings will be headed by Deputy Defense Minister Gen Mordekhay Zippori. At the end of the opening session of the Military Committee, Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi gave a dinner at At-Tahirah Palace in honor of the Israeli defense minister and his delegation.

Committee Session on 12 Jan

NC121011Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 12 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 January--The Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee resumed its meeting in At-Tahirah Palace in Cairo this morning. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi headed the Egyptian side and Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman headed the Israeli side.

The MENA military editor has learned that today's session will be devoted to studying the Israeli settlements in north Sinai. The Egyptian side emphasized the need for Israeli withdrawal from them because Israel's presence in them violates Egypt's sovereignty over its territories. General al-Jamasi and General Weizman will hold a press conference at At-Tahirah Palace at noon today at the end of the meeting.

Israeli Proposals to Committee

TA111721Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Israel's delegation to the Military Committee in Cairo announced a short while ago that it would present five proposals to the committee, one of which will be the continuing existence of the Israeli settlements in Sinai. The Israeli delegation headed by 'Ezer Weizman released that statement to the press a short time before the committee meeting opened.

And these are the five proposals that Israel is about to present to the Military Committee: A gradual withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sinai; the demarcation of areas in Sinai in which troops and weapons will be limited, as well as the demarcation of demilitarized areas; the status of Israeli airfields in Sinai; supervision of security measures; and, as earlier mentioned, the continued existence of the Israeli settlements in Sinai and the determination of their status.

Weizman Call to Other Arabs

TA111939Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Jan 78 TA

[Text] At the opening of the meetings of the Military Committee in Cairo, Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman repeated his call to the other Arab neighbors of Israel--Jordan, Syria and Lebanon--to join the peace negotiations. He said that the battle-seasoned military men who convened in Cairo are greatly privileged. They have the privilege of ending war and building peace.

The defense minister said that Israel's desire for peace is sincere but that it cannot come at the expense of its security. Therefore, Israel wants to discuss at the Cairo conference how to work out permanent safety valves which would operate without favoring Egypt, Israel or any other party. Mr Weizman stressed to the Egyptians that Israel is still being threatened by extremist countries which have not given up war intentions. He proposed that the Military Committee discuss arrangements for the continuation of the Israeli settlements in the border areas and the ways to protect them. He also proposed that the maintenance of free navigation routes, the limitation of military forces and their deployment farther apart, the extensive demilitarization of the Sinai Peninsula to enable reciprocal early warning and the establishment of an efficient control over the implementation of the agreements be discussed. Mr Weizman also said that Israel is interested in insuring open borders between itself and Egypt and in insuring harmony and cooperation between the two ancient peoples, which will turn the area into a paradise.

In a communique issued by the spokesman of the Israeli delegation to Cairo, it was announced that the first round of talks would continue until Friday. That round will be devoted to reaching an agreement on the order of discussions and to presenting Israel's stand. The Israeli delegation is to return to Israel on Friday for consultations on the continuation of the discussions.

'Low Profile' of First Meeting

TA121137Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By Nahum Barnea and Yona Shimshi, DAVAR correspondents in Cairo]

[Excerpt] Contrary to previous meetings between Egypt and Israel, the Egyptian Government is doing all in its power to lend a "low profile" to the first meeting of the Military Committee.

The visit by Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman and senior officers of Israel's General Staff opened with a very modest ceremony in the VIP lounge at the airport. From then on, during the day, the Egyptians refused most of the Israeli requests to enable Israeli press and radio reporters to report on the negotiations to their country. The Egyptians were doing this with a clear intention not to generate too much hope or expectations about the talks. Following an explicit demand by the Egyptians, Weizman's prepared opening speech became an "unspoken speech." At first Al-Jamasi declared that he would avoid answering Weizman. Later Weizman was requested to make his speech shorter, and in the end to abandon it. The correspondents watched the two delegations which sat opposite each other in the wood-paneled At-Tahirah Palace guest room without exchanging any words. One Israeli representative said he felt as if he were watching a silent movie.

Meanwhile, the Israelis are not attracting any special attention in Cairo either. The senior members of the Israeli delegation were quartered at the At-Tahirah Palace, but IDF officers of a subordinate rank in the delegation spent their first night in the lobby, freezing with cold. The Israeli newsmen were given lodgings on one floor of the ancient Shepherds Hotel. The floor is under the close watch of security personnel.

Efforts To End Discussions

TA111340Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 11 Jan 78 TA

[Text] A senior source in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry told our correspondent Shelomo Ganor that the advancement of the deliberations of the Military Committee had already been coordinated in the summit meeting between the prime minister and President as-Sadat in Ismailia. The source said that Egypt wants to end the discussions of the Military Committee even before the deliberations of the Political Committee begin. The Egyptian source added that there are still differences of opinion between Israel and Egypt about the agenda of the Political Committee and that contacts are being made to find an agenda that will be agreed upon by both parties.

MUBARAK COMMENTS ON AS-SADAT TALKS WITH WEIZMAN

NC121026Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0855 GMT 12 Jan 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 January--The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that at their meeting in Aswan yesterday Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat affirmed to Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman that Egypt rejects any attempts to keep the Jewish settlements following the achievement of peace.

The newspaper publishes remarks by Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak, who attended the As-Sadat-Weizman meeting, in which Mubarak affirms that in his conversation with Weizman President as-Sadat dealt with the basic principles of peace according to Egypt's views and according to what As-Sadat had previously emphasized at his meetings with U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

Husni Mubarak adds that Weizman informed President as-Sadat that he will return to Israel tomorrow, Friday, to confer with Begin on the Military Committee's work. Then Weizman will participate in the opening of the Political Committee meetings in Jerusalem next Monday.

AL-JUMHURIYAH also says that Egypt's delegation to the Egyptian-Israeli Political Committee meetings, which will begin in Jerusalem, will be headed by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. The delegation will include the following members: Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egypt's chief UN delegate; and Ambassador Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry under secretary.

The newspaper adds that the Egyptian delegation will include the following experts, advisers, ambassadors, ministers plenipotentiary and secretaries: 'Abd ar-Ra'uf ar-Ridi, Nabil al-'Arabi, Ahmad Mahir, Ahmad Sha'ban, 'Amru Musa, Salah Mindawi and Ahmad Abu al-Ghayt.

Jerusalem Report on Meeting

TA111707Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman met in Aswan with President as-Sadat this afternoon for a talk of approximately an hour. They conferred on the question of where the issue of Israeli Sinai settlements should be discussed, in the Military Committee or in the Political Committee. Israel desires the discussion to be in the Political Committee, whereas the Egyptians say the issue should be discussed in the Military Committee because the subject has to do with the withdrawal by Israel. No conclusions have been reported.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS EGYPTIAN PEACE PROPOSAL

NC120858Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 12 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 January--The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that the Egyptian peace proposal contains the following points:

1. Total withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Sinai within 18 months.

2. The presence of early warning stations without a single Israeli soldier in these stations.

3. Rejection of any joint administration plans related to Sharm ash-Shaykh--leasing, lending or anything of the sort--and inserting a stipulation in the peace treaty on the freedom of navigation in the Gulf of Aqaba or the stationing of UN emergency forces in this area.

4. Widening of the buffer zone in Sinai in a manner compatible with the narrowness of Israel's depth following the withdrawal.

5. Refraining from building any Israeli settlements in Sinai following the signing of the peace treaty.

6. Evacuation of the three advanced Israeli airports in Sinai.

7. Demilitarized zones on the Egyptian and Israeli sides, not only on the Egyptian side.

The Israeli delegation has circulated a press statement including the Israeli peace proposal, which includes:

1. Phased withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Sinai.

2. Limitation of the number of forces and arms in specific areas in Sinai, the creation of demilitarized zones and the stationing of UN forces in these areas.

3. Reinforcement of the Israeli settlements and the definition of their status.

4. Status of the Israeli airports and control over security measures at these airports.

The statement says that the Military Committee will discuss the various principles related to security for the purpose of achieving agreement on the definition and orientation of these principles.

AL-AHRAM: ISRAEL SUBMITS SECOND WORKING PAPER

NC120818Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0735 GMT 12 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 January--The newspaper AL-AHRAM today reports that Egypt is studying a second working paper submitted by Israel as a proposed agenda for the Political Committee meetings in Jerusalem following Egypt's objection to the first agenda proposed by Israel, which consisted of the following provisions: the settlements, the peace treaties and the question of the Palestinian Arab refugees.

The U.S. ambassador in Cairo received the Israeli proposals from the U.S. ambassador in Tel Aviv, and he conveyed them yesterday to Vice President Husni Mubarak. The ambassador also conveyed the proposals to Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil.

The newspaper also reports that Egypt has proposed an agenda consisting of the following three provisions: withdrawal, the Palestinian question and the nature of peace resulting from withdrawal.

KAMIL BRIEFS OFFICIALS ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

NC111924Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met this evening with the ministry under secretaries and the directors of the ministry departments and briefed them on the latest developments in the Middle East crisis and the results of the efforts exerted by the Arab Republic of Egypt to attain a just and lasting peace in the area. His excellency also dealt with the outcome of President as-Sadat's meetings with U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Sudanese President Ja'afar Numayri and the shah of Iran. He also talked about the moves during the next phase and Egypt's stand in the meetings of the political and military committees stemming from the Cairo preparatory conference.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES EILTS, LETTER FROM CARTER

NC120949Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0846 GMT 12 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 January--The Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM today reports that U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts informed Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat at their meeting in Aswan yesterday that Eilts had been assigned by U.S. president Jimmy Carter to convey to President as-Sadat the U.S. attitude on the Egyptian-Israeli discussions. AL-AHRAM says that as submitted by the U.S. ambassador the U.S. stand is summed up in the following three points:

1. The U.S. President's concern that the Political Committee meetings to be held in Jerusalem should succeed, particularly since U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will be participating, for a reasonable period, by heading the U.S. delegation of Jerusalem and will be playing a positive role in the work of the committee so as to help the two sides achieve a statement related to the basics of the overall settlement.

2. The United States does not want to overemphasize its utterances and statements by stressing declared stands which it has already explained in order to help the parties reach an understanding on clear bases.

3. Contacts are underway aimed at enabling Cyrus Vance to make a number of visits to the area after attending the Political Committee meetings in Jerusalem.

Following his meeting with President as-Sadat, Eilts stated that the United States is contacting Egypt and Israel in order to surmount the present obstacles related to the Political Committee agenda. No agreement has yet been reached on these obstacles, which will be the object of new efforts to be exerted by the United States in order to bring viewpoints closer to each other.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat has received a letter from U.S. President Jimmy Carter containing President Carter's assurance that the United States will seek to make the Egyptian-Israeli peace discussions successful. The letter, which President as-Sadat received prior to the beginning of the meetings of the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee in Cairo yesterday, contains a number of U.S. ideas and proposals related to the beginning of the process of negotiation and the meetings of the Military and Political committees in Cairo and Jerusalem.

President Carter says in his letter that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will play an active role at the meetings of the Political Committee and he will bring viewpoints closer on the topics to be raised at the meetings.

The newspaper says that Eilts will inform President Carter of President as-Sadat's attitude on all the aspects of the present problem. The paper adds that President as-Sadat's stand can be summed up in three points: no argument over withdrawal to Egypt's international border, the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people and no ceding of a single inch of territory under any excuse and Egypt will not permit the building of settlements to continue.

AL-AHRAM: BEGIN SHOULD NOT MISS CHANCE FOR PEACE

LD111456Y Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpts] Writing in today's AL-AHRAM under the heading "A Chance of a Lifetime and Mr Begin," Yusuf as-Suba'i writes:

It seems to me that Mr Begin has made up his mind to miss the chance of a lifetime--that of his life and of Israel's--after the road to peace and security has become clear before his eyes, since this road was lit by the flame of the astonishing initiative on which As-Sadat had embarked. Instead of heading directly for the target of a just peace, which was illuminated by the light of the initiative following a long period of straying on [words indistinct] dark road, instead of heading toward a real and just peace, we find him engaged in jumping (?in place), moving in a vicious circle of plans and proposals which do not indicate that theman has seen the road to real peace which has been lit by As-Sadat's initiative or that he intends to step onto it.

If we have admitted that it is the right of Israel to live in security, to deal with its neighbors (?in a formal manner) and to achieve what it terms a normal peace with all the aspects of normal dealings with neighbors which such a peace carries with it, the fact remains that what Mr Begin is doing at present cannot bring to him any peace, normal or not normal.

According to basic logic--although Mr Begin finds it difficult to understand such logic--it is not natural for states to achieve their security by chopping off pieces of the territory from neighboring states simply because such an action provides better security for them.

The author puts the following question to Mr Begin: Do settlements that exist amidst a sea of opposition and hatred provide more security for their occupants? If the Israeli people do not have a sense of security inside Israel, do they have a sense of security when inside the Arab body?

Speaking for every Arab, As-Sadat has said "yes" to Israel's security, "no" to its expansion. The Israeli people must understand very well that the price of expansion is paid out of security and that any piece of land they cut off will always be cut off from their security.

And what about the core of the issue, the Palestinian Arab people? Does Mr Begin seek Israel's security by way of dominating the West Bank, by continuing to occupy it and by spreading Israeli settlements over it? Does he expect security and stability for Israel after that? Normal relations exist only among independent countries. If Israel wants normal relations with its neighbors, it must have next to it an independent Palestine, not an occupied Palestine. But Mr Begin knows only one side of the issue. He knows that he wants security, but he does not know how to achieve it. He wants security by occupying others' territories and by building settlements. He is thus continuing to move in a vicious circle.

If Mr Begin extinguished the gleam of peace, the Israeli people would once again suffer a security threatened by a war which might break out at any time, and this for the sake of trying to achieve a security which would never be achieved after Mr Begin had extinguished its gleam and slammed the door on it.

Mr Begin is making a mistake to think that the Arabs have been divided and that, relying on the force of arms or by brandishing that force, he can impose the peace he wants. This is because the Arabs can be brought together by another October with all the solidarity it witnessed in fighting, in oil and in Arab resources. Mr Begin is making a mistake to think that he can maneuver and bargain endlessly. We want to go ahead on the road of peace, but we refuse to dawdle on it. We know our target and aims. We have taken a step forward in your direction on the road of peace, so proceed and do not embark on detours and evasions, otherwise you will find yourself once more on the road to war, you will miss the chance of a lifetime--your lifetime and that of Israel's--you will be calling for the destruction of Israel without negotiations.

MUSTAFA AMIN: EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI GAP STILL WIDE

LD091910Y Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 7 Jan 78 p 8 LD

[Mustafa Amin article: "We Welcome the Success of Talks But We Are Not Afraid of Failure"]

[Text] The gap between the Egyptian and Israeli viewpoints is still wide, despite the fact that President Carter believes that the proposal he submitted in Aswan could be a good basis for reaching peace.

During his meetings in Iran, India, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, Carter was convinced that the entire Arab people and the Islamic peoples and also the people of the Middle East support President as-Sadat in his rejection of Menahem Begin's proposals.

It is expected that the important meetings that will open in Jerusalem in mid-January and will be attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Kamil, U.S. Secretary of State Vance and Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan will reach a fundamental agreement. But the matter is not as simple as it may appear. Although Egypt and the United States have come closer, Israel has not budged an inch. It is budging only 1 millimeter at a time. President Carter promised that the U.S. ambassador in Israel will try to persuade Menahem Begin on the new U.S. proposal but that if he does not succeed in doing so Secretary Vance will remain in Israel until agreement is reached on the statement that the Ismailia talks failed to agree upon.

The talks of the three foreign ministers will be exhausting, difficult and long. This is perhaps the reason why Moshe Dayan asked the cabinet to appoint General Sharon as his deputy in the negotiations probably because he thinks that one man alone cannot carry on in these long meetings.

Those who were close to Carter during his tour say that it will not be difficult to overcome the present differences as long as Egypt and Israel really desire peace. They are afraid that if this opportunity is lost the agreement and the enthusiasm of both peoples for peace may not happen once again as it is happening now. The present atmosphere is the most suitable for a settlement. It is an atmosphere that no one dreamed of. But if clouds begin to accumulate in this fine international climate, no one can predict when a similar climate will come about once again--maybe in 50 years, 100 years or never.

The stumbling block in the negotiations has been the Palestinian state and Israel's fear of the creation of a red state to which Russian and Cuban experts would be sent to do what they have done in Angola or what they are doing today in Somalia and Eritrea.

Obviously, neither Egypt nor any other Arab country wants the liberation of Palestinian territory from the Israelis to mean the occupation of such a territory by the Russians. If Israel is afraid of the establishment of a communist state on its borders, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt fear the same. It is possible to agree on reasonable guarantees that would insure that self-determination for the Palestinians is not dangerous to Israeli security. We do not wish to destroy Israel, nor do we wish to destroy the Arab countries through a communist invasion. But this is one thing and what Begin proposed in Ismailia was another. The proposed self-rule for the Palestinians means Israeli rule of the Palestinians and not self-rule for the Palestinian people. This would also abolish all the UN resolutions that all countries of the world with the exception of Israel have accepted. Begin has told his colleagues that his proposal would contribute to realizing the dream of the Palestinians. But what we heard from him was not a realization of the Palestinians' dream but rather a nightmare for them.

Reports from various world capitals said that after Carter's recent visit to Aswan there was a strong hope for laying down a sound foundation for comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Reports from Paris said that after his meeting with President Carter, President Giscard d'Estaing said that he had become more optimistic than before, particularly with regard to the stand of the moderate Arab states.

Despite this optimism, we would like Menahem Begin to know that the Egyptian people are not overenthusiastic for peace, nor would they accept peace at any price, nor would they lose patience because of prolonged negotiations and maneuvering. The Egyptian people believe that they did their duty when President as-Sadat carried out his legendary and bold initiative and when they showed such splendid unanimous support for him. They also did their duty when they opposed those who wanted to fight to the last Egyptian soldier, The Egyptian people will lose little if the negotiations fail, but Israel will lose recognition and peace as well as secure borders.

In Egypt the Egyptian fighter will become more ferocious than before and more convinced than ever that he has done everything to restore his land peacefully while the other side insists that it will give it back only through fighting. The ordinary citizen will feel that it is his duty to double his work in order to build Egypt and liberate it while realizing that his national duty calls upon him to make greater sacrifices, which he will do out of conviction and belief.

The people's belief that their ruler has endangered his life and position because of his awareness of the people's daily sufferings and hardships will be further strengthened. Such solidarity will make the people more insistent upon shouldering the historic responsibility and will henceforth make everyone of us act positively and play his role in the battle of life and liberation.

The failure of negotiations would also make the Arabs aware of their responsibility for the cause vis-a-vis Israel and will make them feel more strongly committed to Egypt--morally, economically, militarily and spiritually.

They will become more strongly convinced that Egypt has sacrificed everything for the sake of the Arabs, just as it sacrificed everything for the sake of peace. They will realize that all the Arab countries put together have not paid for as much as 1/10th of the blood that Egypt has sacrificed. They will believe what an economic commentator on the CBS television said: that Egypt spent $100 billion on these wars, while all the Arab countries put together lost only 1/10th of what Egypt did.

They will realize that as a result of these wars Egypt has become poorer, while the Arab countries have become richer and more prosperous because of them.

The world will admit that Egypt has given the area every opportunity to achieve peace but that Israel failed to respond to it, that Egypt speaks the language of the civilized man, while Israel insists on speaking with the language of barbarian colonialists.

The world will recognize that Egypt respects the UN resolutions and charter, while Israel tramples them underfoot and that Israel insists on living in the past when it talks about fear and distrust.

Egypt will have won the world opinion without spending a cent, while Israel will have lost after having spent millions.

Nevertheless, we do not wish Israel to lose. We want it to win with us, because we want the world to win peace and prosperity and we want fighting, destruction and bloodshed to stop.

U.S. JEWISH LEADER SPEAKS TO JOURNALISTS

NC111550Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 11 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Aswan, 1 January--The chairman of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Organization in the United States, Alexander Schindler, has described President Anwar as-Sadat as an admirable and farsighted man capable of causing things to happen. He is sincere in his efforts to establish peace in the area.

In a statement made to journalists following his meeting with President Anwar as-Sadat today, Schindler said that the past events were exciting enough and what he saw today confirms this. He added: I tried to explain to the president the position of the American Jews and what prompts them to support Israel and take interest in Israel's security. This is the context of the message I brought with me. Naturally, I expressed our appreciation for what President as-Sadat has done out of his desire to establish peace. We believe that peace will prevail in our area.

Asked if he is convinced that President as-Sadat would be able to put forth a plan dealing with the security of Israel, Schindler said: I certainly hope so. I believe that the role of individuals is very important. What President as-Sadat and Begin have done to establish peace is important, but the question is more than that of personal relations, and what is most important is the national interests of both sides.

Asked his opinion about Begin's plan on the settlements, Alexander Schindler said: I do not wish to go into details. I am not here to negotiate. I believe that some of the problems which will surface will be caused because of slogans shouted from a distance. Let us wait until the committees begin their work, discuss the problems and reach proper solutions to the problem of security and other problems and introduce a new method of communicating between the two states.

Asked if the security of Israel is all that the Jewish community in the United States is concerned about, Schindler said: This is the main concern of the Jewish community.

Asked if the Jewish community is also concerned about Arab security, Schindler said: Of course. This is a reciprocal matter. We naturally want security for the Arabs, and we do not believe that any Jews or Israelis, other than fools, accept the policy of expansion.

Answering a question about the Palestinians, Schindler said: We did not precisely discuss this. We touched on it. The problem of the Palestinian Arabs is not a problem which can be put aside. A solution to it must be found.

Schindler was then asked: Are you convinced that the Palestinians must have their own state? Schindler answered: I share the general idea that an independent state at this stage at least would threaten security.

He was then asked: Did President as-Sadat give you a specific message for American Jews? He answered: No.

Schindler was asked: Is there any difference between your viewpoint and the Israeli Government viewpoint concerning the general framework for peace? He replied: The viewpoints of the Jewish community in America are not identical with Israel's viewpoints because the community has its own viewpoints and thoughts. The community, however, supports Israel.

Asked whether there is a connection between the establishment of settlements and security, he said: I am certain that the question of settlements can be easily solved.

He was asked: What is the influence of President as-Sadat on the Jewish community in America? He replied: They were astounded, like the rest of the world, because he opened the door for peace, and I sincerely think that a solution can be found by working together to come up with the proper language that can be understood by two peoples who have undergone the same experience.

Asked how long it would take to eliminate the differences between the two sides, he replied: Not long. It will not take a generation.

When asked what is the main obstacle to peace, he replied: I do not think that the settlements are among the main stumbling blocks, but I think that the obstacle is how to provide security for Israel. I mean, security that the Israelis consider quite sufficient.

Schindler added: I have not come here to negotiate. Let the committees work and I am confident that they will achieve something.

Asked whether Israel has responded to As-Sadat's Jerusalem visit, Alexander Schindler said: There are differences of opinion between the two states. I was in Israel last week, and I heard opinions there saying that Begin has given away everything and has received little. I came to Egypt, which is one of the confrontation states and the only citadel [at-tawd] in the Arab world, and I heard here the opposite of what I heard in Israel, namely, that Egypt has given everything and that Israel's only response is slogans which impede peace.

He added: I gave an example to President as-Sadat of what human relations are capable of doing for the cause of peace. I told him he has taken the first step, which is an important step in bringing about peace. In Israel they have confidence in President as-Sadat and in the sincerity of his intentions. The big threat to Israel, however, no longer comes from the direction of Sinai. And if it does not come from Syria, then it will come from "Judaea and Samaria." This problem must be solved.

Asked how the Jewish community in America can help in the establishment of peace, he said that it will support all efforts for peace.

Concerning the statements made by U.S. President Jimmy Carter in which he announced that the Palestinians have a right to determine their future, Schindler said: The idea in the United States is that America is playing the role of a catalyst in pushing forward the peacemaking process started by As-Sadat by his initiative. This is our idea and that of the Americans also.

He added that he will hold talks with Begin to brief him on the results of his visit to Egypt.

He was asked: Are the American interests in the region in agreement with Israeli interests in the region? He replied: America has common interests and international interests. Its interests do not lie with Israel only, but the world over.

One of the reporters asked him about Begin's utterance that there are Palestinian Arabs and Palestinian Jews living in a Palestinian land and that the Palestinian Jews have a state, army, parliament, flag and so on. Then why should not the Palestinian Arabs have the same thing? He replied: You ask me to reply on behalf of Mr Begin.

LICENSES OF THREE SOVIET MAGAZINES WITHDRAWN

NC120852Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 12 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 January--Egyptian Culture and Information Minister 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi has issued a decision withdrawing the licenses of three Soviet magazines printed and issued in Cairo. These magazines are SOVIET YOUTH, THE SOVIET MAGAZINE AND the MODERN CENTURY. In publishing this report today, the Egyptian newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH reports that the Egyptian minister revoked the licenses of the three magazines on the strength of Egypt's decision to close down the Soviet cultural centers in Egypt.

ITALIAN SENATE SPEAKER FANFANI MEETS AS-SADAT

AU110930Y Rome ANSA in English 0810 GMT 11 Jan 78 AU

[Text] Cairo, January 11 (ANSA)--Italian Senate Speaker Amintore Fanfani was received here by Egyptian chief-of-state Anwar as-Sadat. The Tuesday meeting took place in Aswan and lasted about 45 minutes. The main topic of the talk was the Mideast crisis. Fanfani, who before coming to Egypt visited Israel, voiced "sincere congratulations" for the "farseeing and courageous" visit As-Sadat made to Jerusalem in November. The talk between As-Sadat and Fanfani, it was reported, took place in a "very cordial" atmosphere.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES BRITISH AMBASSADOR

NC111333Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today met with the British ambassador in Cairo. The meeting was held within the framework of the contacts Egypt is conducting to explain developments in the Middle East situation and the results of its efforts to achieve a swift and just solution for the problem.

ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN111230Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 January--Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika and Minister of Transport Ahmed Draia arrived in Baghdad at noon today on a brief visit to Iraq. Bouteflika stated that this visit comes within the framework of consultations between Iraq and Algeria on various issues.

Referring to President Boumediene's visit to Iraq within his current Arab tour, Bouteflika said that the president's visit was aimed at exchanging views with President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn on various issues. He further said that it is necessary to brief the brothers in Iraq on the results of our visits to various Arab capitals which Boumediene visited on his current tour.

Delivers Message to Al-Bakr

JN111620Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 11 January--President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr received here this evening Algerian Council of the Revolution member and Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika. During the meeting, the Algerian minister conveyed a message to President al-Bakr from Algerian President Houari Boumediene dealing with the current Arab situation through which the Arab nation is passing.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and Algerian Minister of Transport Ahmed Draia.

Concludes Visit

JN111935Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika left Baghdad this evening at the end of a visit to Iraq which lasted a few hours. In a statement to INA, Bouteflika said that his visit to Iraq was successful and that it was restricted to consultations on the situation in the Arab area.

Bouteflika was seen off by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, the Algerian charge d'affaires in Baghdad, and the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN120908Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 12 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 12 January--UN Under Secretary General for Conference Services Lewandowski arrived in Baghdad last night on a week's visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry. In a press statement, Lewandowski said that he will discuss with Iraqi officials matters of mutual interest.

BRIEFS

YUGOSLAV STATISTICAL DELEGATION--Baghdad, 11 January--A Yugoslav delegation led by Ibrahim Lafitic, director general of the institute for statistics, arrived in Baghdad on a week-long visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Ministry of Planning. The visit of the Yugoslav delegation comes as part of the cooperation and the exchange of know-how between the two friendly countries in the statistical spheres. [Text] [Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN]

AMMAN REPORTS ARRIVAL OF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

JN111643Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] A U.S. congressional delegation led by Zablocki arrived in Amman this morning on a visit of several days to Jordan. During the visit the delegation will meet with His Majesty King Husayn, Crown Prince Hasan and a number of officials.

In a statement to JNA, Zablocki said that Jordan is an important country in the Middle East area and plays a significant and leading role in the Middle East problem in view of its historic and national link with the issue. He added that the aim of the delegation's visit to Jordan and several other Arab states is to discuss questions pertaining to the Middle East issue and to strengthen relations between the United States and these countries.

On the attitude of the U.S. Congress toward the full Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the head of the delegation said: President Jimmy Carter had defined the basic points of a political solution to the Middle East problem, including Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 lines. President Carter is confident of congressional support for his endeavors toward establishing peace in the area.

He lauded the strong relations of cooperation and friendship between Jordan and the United States.

The delegation was received by a number of senators.

Meeting With Crown Prince

JN111956Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan met this evening at the royal scientific society with the members of the U.S. congressional delegation currently visiting Jordan. At the beginning of the meeting, his royal highness the crown prince discussed the 5-year development plan and the development projects included in the plan, aimed primarily at developing and advancing the Jordanian economy and consequently raising the economic and social standards of the Jordanian citizen.

His royal highness the crown prince asserted that in order for this plan to succeed, sufficient funds should be provided to implement these projects in accordance with the formulated plans and timetable.

His royal highness also spoke about the Israeli expansionist designs manifested in the construction of settlements in the occupied Arab areas. He said: The construction of such settlements at present constitutes a major obstacle in the way of the efforts to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan affirmed that Jordan's stand toward the Middle East issue is based on demanding Israel to withdraw from the Arab areas occupied in 1967 and to secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

At the end of the meeting, his royal highness the crown prince answered questions by members of the U.S. congressional delegation. The meeting was attended by the president of the national planning council, the director general of the royal scientific society and high-ranking employees of the society. The meeting was also attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

PAPER SEES WEIZMAN STATEMENT AS ISRAELI STALLING

JN120935Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Jan 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Weizman's News to the Arabs," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR writes editorially: General Weizman believes that accumulated problems between Israel and the Arabs will require 30 years to solve. This is what the Israeli defense minister said upon arrival in Cairo yesterday heading a delegation of Israeli generals. Thus, according to Weizman, 2008 might be the year in which things will be settled in the area. However, it is more likely that with this theatrical statement Weizman wanted to put an end to the optimistic hopes which certain Arabs cherish and believe about reaching a just peace in the area in only a few months.

AD-DUSTUR says: Undoubtedly the statement about 30 years made by the Israeli defense minister reflects the mentality with which he came to Cairo, particularly as he frankly stated that the work of the joint Military Committee has no time limit, if we add to this the fact that the committee will meet 3 days every week--after which the Israeli delegation will return to Israel and then back again to Cairo next week--it becomes obvious that these talks will take a long time. Weekly shuttles, as in the well-known method of Kissinger, will be resumed.

AD-DUSTUR continues: If this is the case with the Military Committee, which has responsibilities supposedly less than those of the Political Committee, no one can guess the time the latter committee will require. Thus it is clear that at this particular time Israel seeks to gain time, while continuing to build the settlements which it wants to make the basis for the Israeli borders in any negotiated settlement.

Concluding its editorial AD-DUSTUR says that the way Weizman began his efforts in Cairo clearly reveals the course the talks will take. It is the duty of the Arabs not to waste time and to return to unified action in order to seize control of the situation, or else they will have to wait until 2008, as Weizman himself has told them.

FORMER UK PRIME MINISTER HEATH MAKES VISIT

Received by Badran

JN071540Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 7 January--Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office this morning former British prime minister, Member of Parliament Edward Heath.

During the meeting, the latest developments in the Middle East question and prospects for the efforts being exerted to achieve a lasting and just peace in the region were reviewed.

Meets With Crown Prince

JN071925Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan received in his office today Mr Edward Heath, former British prime minister and member of parliament.

His royal highness acquainted Mr Heath with the latest developments in the Middle East issue and Israel's stand toward the efforts being exerted to find a peaceful and just settlement in the region. He also briefed him on the settlement policy adopted by Israel in the occupied Arab territories and the obstacles it creates in the face of the efforts being exerted to achieve peace in the region.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan then accompanied Mr Heath on a visit to the Ghor area where Mr Heath became acquainted with the development plans underway in the area.

INFORMATION MINISTER RETURNS FROM SAUDI ARABIA

JN112000Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah today returned to Amman at the end of a 5-day visit to Saudi Arabia which came in response to an invitation from Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani.

Abu 'Awdah said that during his visit, he met with his Saudi counterpart and discussed with him cooperation between the two fraternal countries. He added: These talks led to a draft information agreement which will be signed later after completing the necessary legal measures in the two countries.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA--A royal decree has been issued appointing Mr Riyad Sabri as a nonresident ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Republic of Indonesia. Mr Sabri is Jordan's ambassador to the People's Republic of China. [Text] [Amman JNA in Arabic 1535 GMT 7 Jan 78 JN]

ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE CONTINUES VISIT

Closed Talks Held

JN111409Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Excellency President Houari Boumediene resumed their talks at 1330 today in a closed session.

Official Talks Resume

JN112140Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] The official talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and Algerian President Houari Boumediene were resumed at 2130 today at the presidential palace. The following attended the talks on the Syrian Arab side: Assistant Secretary General of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar; Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi; Assistant Secretary General of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj; Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; and Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member Maj Gen Naji Jamil.

The following attended the talks on the Algerian side: Revolution Council member and Foreign Affairs Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika; Revolution Council member and Minister of Trasport Ahmed Draia; Minister Councellor to the President Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and Minister of Finance Mohamed Sekkik Benyahia.

Further Details

JN120615Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] During the meeting, a lengthy discussion took place concerning President Boumediene's tour of the area's countries and the outcome of his talks in the Arab capitals.

The two presidents reaffirmed their stand to resist the capitulationist steps and schemes. They also stressed the need to work swiftly to strengthen the Arab front of steadfastness. Other Arab meetings will take place to study the issue of providing the requisites of steadfastness and action.

'Arafat Joins Meeting

JN111715Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1658 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 11 January--Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, held separate meetings in Damascus today with Algerian President Houari Boumediene and PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. The Palestinian news agency reports that discussions dealt with current developments in the Arab area.

Boumediene Departs

JN120907Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 0853 GMT 12 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 12 January--President Houari Boumediene left Damascus at 1000 today. President Hafiz al-Asad saw him off at Damascus International Airport. President Boumediene was also seen off by Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, People's Assembly Speaker Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, the deputy prime ministers, the ministers and the Algerian charge d'affaires in Damascus, the heads of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Damascus and the Algerian Embassy staff in Damascus.

ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTEDLY VISITS IRAQ

JN1206142 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika returned to Damascus following a swift visit to Baghdad during which he conveyed a message to Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr from Algerian President Houari Boumediene.

The Algerian foreign minister, who was received at the airport by his Syrian counterpart Khaddam, left immediately for the guest palace in the Syrian capital to brief President Boumediene on the outcome of his mission.

MORE ON PDRY PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

JN1112262 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] At 1030 this morning President Hafiz al-Asad received 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, PDRY prime minister. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi and Muhammad as-Salih Muti', PDRY foreign minister.

His excellency the president and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad resumed the talks they began yesterday dealing with the Arab situation and a plan for the future to oppose and foil the Zionist-imperialist onslaught and to achieve the goals of the Arab nation: liberating the occupied territories and recovering usurped rights.

Statement on Visit

JN1117182 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad made a statement to a SANA correspondent prior to his departure from Damascus. He said that his short visit to Syria has enabled him to hold positive talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi and Syrian officials. These talks dealt with several topics of common concern for the two fraternal countries as well as the current Arab and international situation.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad then added: We appreciate the sacrifices of the Syrian people and their heroic steadfastness in supporting the Palestinian revolution against Zionist aggression.

'Ali Nasir concluded his talk by saying: Our people will always adhere to their principled stands toward the fraternal Syrian people and the Palestinian revolution.

PDRY Prime Minister Departs

JN1114062 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus for [word indistinct] at 1300 today following a 2-day visit to Syria.

FOREIGN MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT TO ITALIAN PAPER

JN121135Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has reasserted that the situation in the Middle East has been exacerbated by As-Sadat's visit to the occupied land. It has impeded efforts being made to reach a just and permanent peace in the area.

In a statement to editor of foreign affairs Lanoti in the Italian newspaper L'UNITA, Khaddam said that what is going on now is not in the interest of peace but serves the interests of Zionism which rejects the establishment of peace. Consequently, what is going on is aimed at imposing capitulatory plans at the expense of the Arabs and their legitimate and national rights.

Khaddam specified the basic factors for a just and permanent peace in the area. He said these factors must be based on comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory and on recognition of the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to return to their homeland and to self-determination and to establish their independent state.

Further Details

JN121324Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpt] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam stressed that the Arabs want a just, permanent and honorable peace which returns to them their national legitimate rights. He added that struggle for a just peace is one thing and submission and making concessions to the enemy is something else.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam then talked about the relations between Syria and the PLO and said: The relationship is good and the PLO is a member of the steadfastness and confrontation front which resulted from the Tripoli conference. We are in agreement over offering help and support in order for the PLO to assume its national and international responsibilities.

In reply to a question on his assessment of the European stand toward the Middle East question following As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said: Before As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem there was progress in the European stand regarding the Middle East question, but after the visit voices in these countries began lauding As-Sadat's initiative, imagining that this visit would push ahead the peace process. These voices are now beginning to retreat, realizing that what has happened is merely a separate agreement which does not serve the interests of peace but instead obstructs the peace efforts that were being exerted to achieve a just and lasting peace.

SPEAKER, FOREIGN MINISTER MEET WITH U.S. DELEGATION

JN112003Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi today received a U.S. Senate delegation headed by Harrison Williams. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Richard Murphy.

The speaker of the People's Assembly explained to the guest delegation the reasons for Syria's rejection of As-Sadat's capitulatory steps. He demonstrated that these steps wrecked peace efforts and harmed the pan-Arab feelings of the Arab nation. The speaker of the People's Assembly affirmed: we are not against Jews but against Zionism because it wants to continue occupying our lands, disperse our people and expand at the expense of our national soil.

The head of the U.S. Senate delegation replied by thanking Al-Halabi for his explanation. He said: We appreciate this good opportunity which has enabled us to open the way for a dialog on topics which concern our two countries, countries in the area and other countries in the world.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this afternoon also received the U.S. Senate delegation. During the meeting, a discussion was held of the latest developments in the Middle East situation. Khaddam explained Syria's firm stand regarding the Arab-Zionist conflict and As-Sadat's visit to the Zionist entity. He affirmed that the establishment of just and lasting peace in the Middle East should be based on Israel's comprehensive withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

SYRIA REPORTEDLY RECEIVING SOPHISTICATED SOVIET ARMS

NC1015O5Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 10 Jan 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 10 January--The Kuwait newspaper AL-QABAS today quotes an official source in Damascus as stressing that Syria will not negotiate with Israel even if the PLO does and that Syria, in cooperation with a number of Arab states, is preparing to confront any capitulatory solutions.

The source said that Syria has been receiving sophisticated arms from the Soviet Union by sea and air. The source noted however that the Western propaganda media have exaggerated the reports about these arms.

The source said that the Syrian-Iraqi relations will soon be restored to normal. He refused to deny or confirm a reported visit to Damascus recently by a responsible senior official to discuss the restoration of these relations.

PRIME MINISTER PRESENTS BUDGET TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

JN112025Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly this evening held its first meeting in its second extraordinary session under the chairmanship of Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi and in the presence of Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi and the ministers.

During the meeting Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi submitted the draft general state budget for 1978. Allocations in the proposed budget for 1978 amount to 18,202 billion Syrian pounds, an increase of 811 million pounds compared with 1977. Revenues amount to the same figure.

The prime minister stressed that the bases adopted in preparing the draft budget conform with the decision of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party calling for the need to maintain the level of general expenditures as they were in 1976 and to continue with this level until 1980. This is in order to reduce administrative and nonproductive expenditures, enable the state to stabilize the prices of widely consumed basic commodities and to continue to support and develop our armed forces so that they will be able to carry out their sacred duty. For this purpose, the budget of the Ministry of Defense has been increased by 10 percent.

The prime minister stressed that 1978 will be the zenith year in the implementation of the fourth 5-year plan. He said that 1,400 million Syrian pounds have been allocated for irrigation projects. Some 3,108 million Syrian pounds have been allocated for plants and chemical industries, 406 million Syrian pounds have been allocated for the engineering industry and 845 million Syrian pounds have been allocated for cement plants.

UN DELEGATE ADDRESSES COMMITTEE ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

JN111410Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, Syrian delegate to the United Nations, has affirmed that meetings between the Zionist entity and the Egyptian regime are paving the way for separate agreements under the guise of a comprehensive peace.

In his speech to the special political committee on the national rights of the Palestinian people, Al-'Allaf suggested that the committee should draw the attention of the Security Council president and the UN secretary general to the dangers inherent in the efforts being exerted to conclude a separate reconciliation [sulh], which contradicts UN resolutions.

LIBYA

TRIPOLI: U.S. PROMISES EGYPT TO HELP SEIZE OIL WELLS

LD111650Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Press reports from Washington have confirmed that America had explained to the Government of Egypt that its economic problem cannot possibly be solved except by occupying the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and seizing its oil wells. The reports said that America had assured the Egyptian Government that it would render full military support to achieve this end.

EGYPTIAN, ISRAELI MINISTERS TOURED LIBYAN FRONT

LD101525Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Reports from the Egyptian capital say that on 21 December 1977 the Egyptian War Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi met with the tribal leaders in Marsa Matruh and asked them to send telegrams of support to the ruler of Egypt. He also asked them to vacate the As-Sallum area quickly when they are requested to do so.

The press reports say that the following day the Egyptian minister visited the Egyptian forces on the borders with the Jamahiriyah accompanied by the enemy defense minister, 'Ezer Weizman. Moreover, reports say that the Egyptian Army has built new roads and stockpiled supplies and ammunition in the area. At present, there are military engineering units engaged in linking military positions on the As-Sallum plateau to facilitate the movement of the Egyptian forces in all those positions.

AMMAN AR-RA'Y INTERVIEWS AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN

JN060947Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Jan 78 pp 1,10 JN

[Muhammad Abu Ghawsh report]

[Text] Salih as-Sanusi, Libyan ambassador in Amman, has declared Libya's appreciation of and support for Jordan's patriotic stands as expressed by His Majesty King Husayn on many occasions. These stands were recently demonstrated by the rejection of Begin's plan and the settlements which harm the rights of the Palestinian people and their national sovereignty.

In a statement to AR-RA'Y, the Libyan ambassador said that President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's message to His Majesty King Husayn the day before yesterday expressed appreciation of and support for Jordan's patriotic stands.

Speaking on the visits to be exchanged between high-ranking officials from the two countries, the Libyan ambassador said that Libya again extends its invitation to King Husayn to visit Libya. He said that the visit has been accepted by his majesty the king and the date will be fixed at the appropriate time. The ambassador added that officials from the two countries will exchange visits as well.

In reply to a question about the resumption of Libyan aid to Jordan, the ambassador said: As long as Jordan continues to be on the confrontation line with the Zionist enemy, it is entitled to comprehensive aid not only from Libya, but also from all the Arab countries to enable it to shoulder its responsibilities and consolidate its patriotic stands. Naturally, economic aid and the question of financing Jordan's development projects fall within this framework. Consultations regarding this aid are taking place between the appropriate authorities, he added. He said: We are proceeding in this from responsible pan-Arab principles which the patriotic stands of our Arab brothers.

On the future of the Jordanian-Libyan relations, the ambassador said: Our relations are excellent. I am personally anxious to consolidate and develop these relations. In this regard he referred to his meetings with the prime minister and with Jordanian officials who were eager to develop and boost cooperation between the two fraternal countries. He added: I am fully confident that the future of our relations is bright and that there is a cause for optimism. President al-Qadhdhafi's message to His Majesty King Husayn has confirmed Libya's readiness to develop these relations and to raise them to an advanced stage.

In appraising Arab relations and their future and Israel's proposed plans, the Libyan ambassador said: I would like to stress that the Arabs in general agree on the basic strategic concept, namely, that the occupied Arab territories are Arab land for which we need not reaffirm our Arabism. Our sovereignty over this land is not an issue subject to bargaining. It is regretable that the Arab differences go against this concept and revolve around peripheral differences when there should be understanding and dialog.

The Libyan ambassador said acrimoniously: It is regrettable and painful to hear people reiterating that Israel will withdraw and will submit concessions. We reject this misleading Israeli proposal because Israel--the aggressor and usurper--has nothing to concede.

Regarding the extent of Libya's commitment to support the Arab clause and the need for the Arabs to face their responsibilities in the battle of survival and challenge, the Libyan ambassador said: Libya considers the Arab cause to be a central, basic and crucial cause. We base our relations with the other countries on their connection to our just cause, their support for Arab rights and their support for the aspirations and hopes of the Palestinian people. The ambassador added: Libya considers the Arab cause to be a general cause in which all Arab countries should be involved. This is a responsibility that should be shouldered by every Arab citizen and nobody has the right to exempt himself from this. Nobody has the right to deal separately with the cause or to abandon his patriotic duties and pan-Arab responsibilities.

The ambassador continued by saying that Libya is endeavoring to beef up unified Arab action against the Zionist danger. It is also working to mend the Arab rift. Libya is happy to see that its good offices have succeeded in creating understanding between Iraq and Syria, because all Arab understanding serves Arab interests.

As for sharing the sufferings of our brothers living under Israeli occupation, the Libyan ambassador said: We consider any accomplishment or gain to be incomplete until we enable our brothers who are standing fast in the face of Israeli occupation to breathe the fresh air of freedom.

MOROCCO

KING HASSAN RECEIVES SAUDI DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

LD111654Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Late this morning, King Hassan II received in audience at the royal palace in Marrakech 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard. Moulay Abdullah was present at the meeting.

PALESTINIAN 'REJECTION' SEEN PLAYING INTO ISRAEL'S HANDS

LD111247Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 4 Jan 78 pp 1,4 LD

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial]

[Excerpt] The 1974 Rabat summit sanctioned the Palestinian resistance in the Arab and international spheres and determined the following objectives:

Withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem;

Recognition of the PLO as the only representative of the Palestinian people; and

Recognition of the Palestinian people's right to possess a homeland and a state.

These objectives have not only been sanctioned by the Arab nation but also recognized by all the world, and during his visit to Jerusalem and his talks with the Israeli leaders President as-Sadat did not back away from these fundamental points, which he not only stated but also defended.

However, once a national liberation movement succeeds in imposing its objectives after having fought and struggled, it must also be able to negotiate.

Like any similar movement, the Palestinian national movement includes various trends which, however, agree on one objective--national liberation, not revolution. Its objectives are not ideological but national, and once they are achieved various trends will be able to give expression to the ideologies which they follow. However, the resistance movement must not embark on this path before liberation takes place. Any national liberation movement calls for the broadest possible union, and liberation, not revolution is the only common denominator capable of insuring such a union.

As a political organ of the Palestinian people, the PLO should logically remain within the framework of these objectives instead of raising ideological problems even before national liberation is achieved.

Unfortunately, we witness a real transformation of the national liberation movement into a revolutionary movement, a fact which has led to a weakening of the existing front since not all the parties concerned can agree with such an orientation. On the contrary, the front should be strong and united, to be able at the decisive moment to negotiate from a position of strength. In the present case, it would be more effective and useful to support President as-Sadat, who champions the Arab cause and the rights of the Palestinians.

Whether Arab or Palestinian, the rejection front's action is inconsistent with the interests of the Palestinian people. It can also be said that those who inspire and manipulate that front play into Israel's hands. For you cannot pretend that you are prepared to negotiate, that is, accept a compromise while loudly proclaiming that you want to destroy your adversary. In order to be able to do the latter, you must have the necessary means and be sure that no one is going to stop you.

In fact, what is most important to these believers in extreme solutions is to keep alive in the Palestinian drama, through demagogic promises, a subversion weapon, a pretext for intervention in the affairs of moderate states.

The crisis has presented them with an opportunity to destabilize the entire region to establish, by means of upheavals artificially created by themselves, regimes devoted to them.

Either consciously or unconsciously, certain Arab leaders are playing into the hands both of these plotters and of an Israel happy to see anyone as intransigent as itself.

However, everybody belonging to the Arab nation should be aware of this fundamental truth --for 30 years war has benefitted no one but Israel, and from 1948 through 1967 the Zionist state has continually expanded and become stronger as a result of conflicts.

It is obvious that extreme solutions benefit no one but Israel. This attitude is the more harmful because it has become apparent at a time when a great majority of the world is favorable to the Arab and Palestinian cause and can exert a certain pressure on the negotiations. Therefore, the hour of truth has now struck. We Moroccans, who have supported the Palestinians ever since the 1917 Balfour Declaration, we who have fought on both the Golan Heights and the Sinai front to liberate them, we who give them material aid without which they would be powerless, tell them that the real problem must be faced. Palestine's liberation is the objective aimed at. Never before has the atmosphere been so favorable or the world so friendly toward the Arab cause. Therefore, our Palestinian brothers must have the courage to say aloud what everybody thinks. They must stop using their country's drama as a pretext and those who support them must stop using it to create a diversion. Advantage should be taken of the opening made by President as-Sadat who, we repeat, has not yielded in any way. Henceforth, nationalism must triumph over subversion and liberation over revolution.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA RECEIVES SOMALI PRESIDENT'S ENVOY

LD102048Y Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 78 LD

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba received this morning at the Republican Palace in Cathage Omar Arteh Ghalib, Somali minister of culture and higher education and the special envoy of President Mohamed Siad Barre. Following the meeting, which was attended by Habib Bourguiba Jr, the personal adviser to the president of the republic, and by Mohamed Fitouri, the foreign minister, the Somali envoy stated that he had conveyed to the head of state a written message from his brother Maj Gen Mohamed Siad Barre connected with the strengthening of the relations between the two fraternal countries and the realization of cooperation in various fields, particularly in the field of education and culture. He also discussed with the president the recent developments in the situation in East Africa. The Somali envoy expressed his satisfaction at the warm reception accorded to him by President Bourguiba and Tunisian officials. He also expressed gratitude for the noble stands adopted by Tunisia in international forums on the question of the liberation of Somali territories and for the work of Tunisian media for the benefit of the Somali cause.

Before this meeting the head of state had conferred with the foreign minister.

GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF ABUSING ITS POWER

LD101727Y Tunis TAP in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Tunis, 10 January--The National Council of the Tunisian Workers Federation continued with the protests and accusations against the government and the party which it began making on Sunday. It has been learned that the secretary general of the federation has submitted his resignation from the Destourian Socialist Party Politburo.

At these meetings several members reaffirmed the need to rescue the homeland from the deep abyss into which it was led by a group which has no principles and resorts to oppression, injustice, suppression and deprivation. They note that the workers federation was not created by a presidential nor a royal decree. They say to those who imagine that they have in their hands the power to make and unmake, that you are wrong if you believe that a presidential decree is capable of dissolving the organization or that a high-level order is sufficient to remove its leader and install someone else in his place--you do not know the masses and their wrath. How could you know the masses when your relations with them are based on sucking their blood?

One of the most serious accusations made at these meetings was that ever since 1956 the country has been brought to the ground by foreign loans and that the colonizer has changed his face and replaced his military presence with anelite that controls power and the banks to insure the preservation of his interests in the country.

The Workers Federation accuses the government and the party of using the army to resist the workers to carry out concentrated arrests of trade unionists and to make an attempt on the life of Al-Habib 'Ashur, secretary general of the federation. This is a blatant escalation of all their maneuvers.

Regarding the relations of the party with the workers federation, workers representatives said that the party works for the benefit of a small group and stands behind economic subservience. It uses maneuvers, casts doubts, and resorts to violence to terrorize the working people. It resorts to dictatorship, domination and control of the rights of man.

The workers representatives accused the mass media of being a poisonous instrument, spreading lies and destructive thoughts, and distoring news to enable a handful of officials to continue in their control of the regime.

'RELIEF,' 'JOY' SEEN GREETING GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE

LD061657Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 27 Dec 77 p 1 LD

[Abdelhay Sghaier article]

[Text] In politics, mature peoples judge their governments by their actions and the sincerity of their intentions, not by slogans and words.

Many rumors have been spread in recent months. Tunisians and observers were struck by the fact that discordant voices were raised by some members of the government team. This led people to believe that dissent existed in the government.

Obviously, the authors of these statements were trying to sow confusion among the people. As a result, hasty and risky interpretations concerning the government's credibility and the effectiveness of its action have appeared. They have given rise to speculation concerning the existence of a "hardline faction and a "moderate faction" in the party and government. However, the Tunisian people have not been deceived by this.

In fact, the relief and joy with which they reacted to the head of state's decision show their desire to see the country recover its calm and politics comply with clarity and morality to insure that all problems are resolved within the framework of legality and in accordance with institutions.

What worried the Tunisian people was statements full of ambiguities and implications, especially those that suggested that a grave and lasting crisis was imminent. However, they were not deceived by this since they realized that if there is a guarantor of democracy, legality and moderation it is Bourguiba and his comrade Nouira. Since 1970 the prime minister has continually and successfully striven to improve the living standards of the masses and create new social relations. After ending the reign of restraint and coercion, the Nouira government restored confidence and initiated an effective development policy based on a fair and just distribution of wealth. In fact, it is by its acts that the Tunisians have judged their government. When approving of its actions and supporting it they have taken only these acts into account. Only positive acts count in the eyes of mature public opinion. In all the rest, especially in the attempts of those who believed that they could isolate Mr Nouira by resigning, the Tunisian people saw only devious maneuvers, intrigues and small-scale machiavellianism unworthy of a country like Tunisia whose choice of a democratic development process has become a tangible reality.

Therefore, there are profound reasons for the relief with which the Tunisian people have greeted the head of state's decision to reshuffle the government. Thanks to Bourguiba, this new crisis has, like the preceding ones, lasted only a few hours. It did not take the president longer than one morning to put an end to a mini-crisis some people wanted to bring about.

In any case, the government's actions will be based on similar principles of perspicacity, effectiveness, clarity and frank and open dialog. Anxious to find concrete and positive solutions to problems facing the citizens, the government will follow a path outlined by Bourguiba.

BEGIN COMMENTS ON MIDEAST ISSUES IN PARIS RADIO INTERVIEW

LD112257Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1815 GMT 11 Jan 78 LD

[Interview with Prime Minister Begin in Jerusalem by Paris radio reporters Andre (Soemama), Edouard Sablier and Ralp Pinto on "The Phone Is Ringing" program--Begin's answers in English with simultaneous translation, transcribed from English--live by telephone]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, I would like to ask you: Whatever the decisions you take on the occupation of the Arab territories that you are occupying, do you consider that they are under Arab or Israeli sovereignty--the Sinai, the West Bank, Golan?

[Answer] So, of course, this is the plan of autonomy which we suggest for the Palestinian Arabs residing in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip to enjoy. It is the fairest proposal possible. Some people will ask us to agree to the term "self-determination," but that is misleading public opinion. Self-determination means a Palestinian state. A Palestinian state would be a mortal danger to Israel. Millions of our people, men, women and children, would be in direct danger of being shelled by their artillery, of the so-called PLO, Soviet artillery, and therefore it is completely unacceptable. It is also unacceptable to the United States. I understand the reason: because such a Palestinian state would be in no time a Soviet base with all the modern Soviet weaponry to be supplied in 2 hours from Odessa to Bethlehem, as the flight time is--as it was to Angola, to Mozambique, to Ethiopia, to Southern Yemen, etc.

And therefore we have a community of interest--I hope it will be understood also by the great French people--of the State of Israel and the Free World. So this is the reason why we suggest autonomy, "self-rule," as it was translated from the Greek word. Autonomy in the United States. [as heard] It is the fairest proposal possible.

[Question] Why do you persist in refusing to recognize the PLO as a valid party while peace cannot be made without the PLO, the sole representative of the Palestinian people in occupied lands and in exile? And how, Mr Begin, can you aspire to peace while you maintain and strengthen the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, particularly on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which involves the confiscation of lands for the Palestinian people and the negation of their legitimate rights? Is this the human rights that you have been speaking about?

[Answer] What you ask me is about the organization called PLO. Now they are bent on the destruction of Israel. We said everything is negotiable except the destruction of Israel. We shall never negotiate with the so-called PLO--just never--and please take note of it.

As far as our settlements are concerned, they are completely legitimate. Every Jew is entitled to settle in this land, in the land of our forefathers. It is no obstacle to peace. We want peace. We now negotiate with Egypt. I want negotiations with King Husayn and with President al-Asad. And even through you I invite both of them either to come to Jerusalem or I will go to their capitals, and let us negotiate peace. And all those statements about the settlements being an obstacle are completely without foundation.

[Question] Since Mr Menahem Begin has said he is a Palestinian, I would like to know whether he would grant the right to return to Palestinians who are not Jews.

[Answer] We accepted many refugees. Don't forget that we accepted also 800,000 Jewish refugees from the Arab countries. And, therefore, the refugees should be resettled in the countries in which they live. Now in Palestine there are about 400,000 Arab refugees. We want to solve the problem humanely, to give them proper housing and permanent jobs and to relieve them of international charity. We are going to do our share, even in these days. Let the Arab countries, which have the petrodollars in the billions and the water and the land, do their share.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, if I understand you correctly, you want the Arab refugees living in the countries outside the zone we are talking about to be resettled where they are?

[Answer] Yes, exactly, resettled, as we settle them in our country.

[Question] Thus, you are telling me exactly that they must be resettled on the spot, as you resettled the refugees you received in your country. But the question I put to you is: Do you accept that, in this case, the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon should be resettled in Lebanon?

[Answer] When I was asked, I said that a reasonable number we can receive in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district, and therefore in our plan of the autonomy we wrote that we suggest a committee to be established which will take decisions unanimously about the immigration of a certain reasonable number of refugees into Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza district.

I would like to add that President Sarkis said that he will never agree to the Palestinian Arabs who stay in Lebanon to remain there. Well, it is his right, because the PLO in Lebanon almost destroyed the Lebanese state and destroyed the Lebanese Army. They almost destroyed the Christian minority. Were it not for Israel--may I tell all our French friends--were it not for the Jewish state, the Christian minority in Lebanon would have been wiped out totally, physically destroyed.

[Question] Mr President, I want to ask you a question on peace: President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, when he was seeing President Carter off to the United States, remarked to journalists that he greatly stressed the guarantees which must be given to the states of the region when the time comes to sign an overall peace in the region.

[Answer] No, we don't want guarantees; we don't rely on guarantees; we don't believe in guarantees. We do not want anybody to fight our battles. We do not want any foreign army to defend our country. We ourselves can sustain our independence, and may I say, in the whole world there is no guarantee that can guarantee a guarantee.

[Question] Can France play a role in the Middle East before or after the signing of a peace agreement?

[Answer] France can play a role if it departs from its completely negative policy. The official French policy is utterly negative, one-sided, and with such a policy France cannot play any role. But if France, may I say, at least becomes objective and states, as I asked Mr Francois-Poncet to tell your president, that the borders between Israel and her neighbors should be negotiated in a free negotiation and determined in the peace treaties, then, of course, France will play a positive role for which we yearn and pray as admirers of the great French people.

BEGIN, AMBASSADOR LEWIS DISCUSS POLITICAL COMMITTEE

TA112032Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin met this evening with the U.S. ambassador in Israel. The two discussed the agenda of the talks of the Political Committee due to begin on Sunday. This is reported by our political correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay.

Ambassador Lewis brought with him a message from Egypt with details about the agenda for the talks. The talk with the prime minister lasted 1 hour and during it the U.S. consul general in Jerusalem, Michael Newlin, brought some additional information for Ambassador Lewis which, according to knowledgeable sources, also came from Egypt.

Our correspondent remarks that immediately after his meeting with Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, President as-Sadat talked in Aswan with the U.S. ambassador in Egypt, Hermann Eilts.

BEGIN SENDS MESSAGES TO BRITAIN'S CALLAGHAN

TA112009Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Within the last 24 hours Prime Minister Menahem Begin sent two messages to British Prime Minister James Callaghan, who is to meet As-Sadat in Aswan the day after tomorrow. Our correspondent in London, Mikha Limor, has learned that Mr Callaghan first contacted Begin from New Delhi and suggested that he transmit a message to the Egyptian president. This morning there was the second call, during which Mr Begin probably replied to Mr Callaghan.

DAVAR: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN REBUKES SHARON

TA111535Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By DAVAR political correspondent]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin met yesterday for a talk with Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon and, according to government sources, rebuked him for his statements at the Herut Party center and also for his activity on the settlement issue, which deviated from cabinet decisions.

According to the same sources, Prime Minister Menahem Begin stressed the grave damage caused to Israel as a result of the contradictory publicity on the settlement issue, some of which apparently originated in Minister Sharon's activity.

Last night it was impossible to ascertain full details of the contents of the Begin-Sharon discussion, but ministers pointed out that Sharon appeared to be suffering from depression and to have been rebuked at the cabinet session.

SHARON EXPRESSES VIEWS OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

TA111815Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon has denied a report by organizers of a settlers rally on Mt Hebron that he allegedly avoided coming to their rally because he was unable to defend the policy of the government. Minister Sharon criticized his detractors and said he was unable to attend a rally where positions of the government are being attacked. He also said that a way must be found to integrate the peace negotiations with the continuation of rural settlements and the strengthening of existing settlements.

BEN-ELISAR RETURNS FROM VISIT TO ROMANIA

TA111909Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, director general of the prime minister's office, returned tonight from Romania. Mr Ben-Elisar visited Bucharest on an assignment by the prime minister to explain the latest developments in our region.

He refused to answer journalists' questions.

DMC COUNCIL, YADIN DISCUSS PEACE PLAN

TA120658Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Jan 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Yiga'el Yadin has said that the cabinet's peace plan is the only one which permits a solution in the present circumstances and the one which can given an answer to the platforms on the various parties.

Yadin made these remarks at the political debate in the DMC council last night, a debate which was mixed with remarks about suspicions of a split and a breaking-up of the young party. Our correspondent on party affairs Sara Frankel brings us the main points of last night's debate:

[Frankel--live] In the DMC political debate various opinions were heard about the peace program. The speakers were, in fact united in their views of the new historic era, as defined by (Isqa Shadmi), the chairman of the DMC foreign affairs committee: the new era, that is, the breaking down of the psychological barrier by As-Sadat on the one hand and, in reaction, the Israeli cabinet's peace program, which is a revolution in the strategy of 30 years of statehood, on the other. During the debate questions came up with regard to the future of the settlements, the nature of the quid pro quo for the withdrawal from Sinai, the solution of the Palestinian question and so on. The questions did not include references to the tactics of the negotiations.

Generally speaking, the questions were not presented as criticism of the peace program but as issues for debate. Professor Yadin evaluated the achievements of the negotiations to date and the moves made by the prime minister and the cabinet, particularly in diverting U.S. support to stand behind Israel. Yadin did not place importance on the arguments pro and con on the program: according to him, the main question was beyond party arguments and it would be better, he said, for everyone to do his own soul searching.

[Yadin--begin recording] And this should not be easy for us. Today a defense minister of the Israeli cabinet is in Cairo and on Sunday Egypt's foreign minister will come to Jerusalem, while the U.S. ambassador and all sorts of West European countries are still thinking about whether to appear in Jerusalem or not. Egypt's foreign minister, officially, is coming to Jerusalem. The problem is that today we are, for the first time, fighting for peace. And this is the most responsible war, the hardest war, and if we do not succeed in it, the only alternative is war.

I do, however, hope that we will reach the day and the moment when in every party, in every home, in every heart and in all the Knesset, the Israeli cabinent will come to the nation and say: We have achieved peace; this is the price, these are the concessions; these are the conditions we did not get what we wanted; we are appealing to the nation, for each one to make his account--not what someone thought, not what someone wants, not what someone is proposing as an exchange; this is it. [end recording]

POST Quotes Yadin

TA120659Y Jerusalem POST in English 12 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By political correspondent Mark Segal]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv--Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin last night denied that Israel's peace plan excluded Jordan as a negotiating partner over the future of Judaea and Samaria. On the contrary, he reassured the council of the Democratic Movement for Change, meeting at Bet Sokolov here, Jordan is definitely the partner for negotiations over the fate of this are, rather than the Palestinians or even Egypt.

Yadin noted that 5 of the 26 clauses in the Begin peace plan that deal with the West Bank autonomy proposal specify Jordan's role. "Believe me, this aspect was well thought out by the premier," Yadin stressed.

The deputy premier spoke in superlatives of the Begin government's diplomatic achievements, saying that "for the first time since Eisenhower's presidency, the U.S. Government supports an Israeli initiative. Begin's achievement was in winning the support of President Carter, before the prime minister presented his plan to President as-Sadat," he said.

POST: OPPOSITION TO PEACE PLAN NOT MATERIALIZING

TA120708Y Jerusalem POST in English 12 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By political reporter Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Kfar Etzion--Attempts by Gush Emunim settlers to organize large-scale opposition to the concessions Israel has offered in its peace proposals appear to have run out of steam, and two outstanding Gush Emunim sympathizers yesterday opposed their policies.

A call by Gush Etzion residents for a meeting here of settlers from all over the country yesterday was a poorly attended local affair. Several hundred people were present, but half the seats were empty. Most participants appeared to be local residents.

The Labour-affiliated Ihud Haqevutzot Vehakibbutzim and Kibbutz Me'uhad movements are cooperating through party institutions, and the moshavim have their own coordinating system. Gush Emunim is therefore joining activities organized by other groups, a senior source in the movement told the Jerusalem POST.

The turnout at the recent "protest vigil" in front of the prime minister's office--organized by leaders of the Land of Israel Movement--similarly was far from overwhelming. About two dozen demonstrators were on hand during a press conference yesterday at noon, although the weather was pleasant. MK Moshe Shamir, the movement's leader, told reporters that several hundred people had signed a petition of support since the vigil began on Sunday. The figure is "approaching 1,000," he said.

In an apparent effort to sustain the momentum, the organizers called for a mass rally there at 3:30 this afternoon. Settlement groups are organizing a march to Yamit next Thursday, and Gush Emunim is organizing a tree-planting ceremony in Shilo on Tu Bishvat, January 23.

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shelomo Goren, who is considered a hawk, attended the meeting here but told the participants he supported Begin's plan.

Goren reported he had a long tete-a-tete with Begin yesterday and later some members of the Rabbinical Council joined the meeting. In addition to a general discussion of Begin's proposals, Goren said he had discussed the future of Jewish holy sites, including the Temple Mount. He reported that Begin had promised that the rabbinate would be authorized to declare Jewish sites to be "holy sites" and there would be no changes in the sites' status without the agreement of the chief rabbis, the Rabbinical Council and other Jewish leaders.

"I'm reassured, very reassured," he said. "Eretz Yisra'el will remain under our sovereignty," he declared.

Sinai was never part of Eretz Yisra'el, or else Moses would have divided it among the tribes when he led the Jews out of Egypt, the rabbi added.

One of the participants exploded: "Begin pulled a fast one on you, too. Please excuse me, Your Honour," he called.

"He didn't have any magic influence on me," Rabbi Goren replied. "I was influenced by what I've heard. You can trust him."

U.S. STUDENT HELD ON SUSPICION OF TERRORISM

TA111344Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Jan 78 TA

[Text] A U.S. Arab student who had formerly been a Ramallah resident was arrested about 3 weeks ago when he arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport on suspicion of belonging to a hostile organization and planning to indulge in hostile activity in Israel. The man is Isma'il al-Qur'an. It is suspected that, as a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, he was trained in a Libyan training camp in terrorist activity. The suspect's brother said that he had come to Israel to visit his dying father.

EGYPTIAN POLITICAL DELEGATION ADVISER COMMENTS ON TALKS

TA111334Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Jan 78 TA

[Text] Dr Husayn (Hasunah), an adviser to the Egyptian delegation to the joint Israeli-Egyptian Political Committee, said in Jerusalem today that the public statements of the two parties do not make any difference; the important thing is the work of the two committees. The adviser said that Egypt wants a comprehensive settlement as soon as possible. Procedural problems will not disturb the work of the committee. The Egyptian delegation wants to deal with substantive issues immediately.

DAVAR: ISRAEL DOES NOT REJECT EXCHANGE OF TERRITORY

TA111340Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Jan 78 p 1 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Excerpt] A senior government source said yesterday that Israel did not reject the possibility of exchanges of territory on the border of Sinai and the southern Negev, although it would not propose this on its own initiative.

The source did not dismiss the possibility that such an idea would be put forward during the debates, by either the Americans or the Egyptians. The source commented that exchanges of territory was an issue of security. The issue of the Rafah approaches has no security significance, only an emotional value.

The issue of exchanges of territory is likely to come up during the talks because the Egyptians are insisting on the principle of mutuality during all the discussions over a comprehensive settlement on the issue of demilitarization and thinning out.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday denied that Israel had proposed, on its own initiative, the idea of exchanges of territory. A report published by the U.S. media said that the Israeli approach is one of willingness to debate the issue if it is put forward in the talks by one of the sides.

ISRAEL TO DEMAND REDUCTION OF EGYPTIAN ARMY

TA1113477 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Jan 78 pp 1, 6 TA

[By Yisra'el Harel]

[Text] Israel's main demand at the military conference in Cairo, which opens this afternoon, will be that Egypt, as proof of the sincerity of its desire for peace, should appreciably reduce its standing army--which numbers about nine divisions--and satisfy itself for the most part with a reserve army, on the model of the IDF.

Today the Egyptian Army is built on a large standing army numbering about half a million men, with a reserve force which is relatively small and mainly technical.

Israel will also ask for arrangements in Sharm ash-Shaykh in order to guarantee freedom of shipping in Bab el-Mandeb and Elat Bay.

One evaluation has it that even if a peace treaty is signed with Egypt, as long as there are Arab countries on the eastern front who are still in a state of war with Israel, it is almost certain that Egypt will be forced to join them if they open fighting.

According to this analysis, if the State of Israel does not maintain an independent military force with a considerable capability to act on the ground, the air and the sea in Sharm ash-Shaykh, there is a danger that the Bab el-Mandeb straits will be closed to Israeli shipping by the extremist Arab countries which control the passage, even if a peace treaty is signed between Israel and Egypt. Today freedom of shipping in these straits is guaranteed because Israel--which controls Sharm ash-Shaykh--holds the key to freedom of shipping of four Arab countries: Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. In today's situation, if the Arab countries which control the Bab el-Mandeb straits try to interfere with our shipping, Israel can react by preventing shipping in the Red Sea for these four countries--and with other measures. It may be assumed, however, that if Israel does not stay in Sharm ash-Shaykh, a situation is likely to emerge in which the straits can be closed to Israeli shipping even if such action is against Egyptian wishes. In such circumstances Israel would not be able to make a suitable local reaction in order to guard its southern shipping lines.

It is reasonable to assume that the only option which would be left to Israel then would be comprehensive war in order to guard its southern waterway. It is very doubtful whether Israel would be able to do this under current international circumstances, and its southern gates might well be closed.

If Israel did not move to defend its rights, its deterrent strength would be exposed as worthless, which would automatically lead to a drop in its power in the Middle East arena, would invite additional attempts to erode its status and its territory, and would also probably cause an undermining, in the end, of any agreement between it and Egypt.

ALINEMENT KNESSET FACTION TO ACT AS UNITED BODY

TA101139Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Jan 78 p 2 TA

[By DAVAR correspondent in the Knesset]

[Text] The Alinement Knesset faction decided yesterday that every action by the faction members regarding every subject on which a position was determined by the Alinement institutions should be carried out only through the authorized bodies of the faction or the party. This decision was taken at the end of clarifications which took place in the wake of the statement by four Labor Party Knesset members condemning the settlements beyond the green line. The head of the Labor Party, Shim'on Peres, said that it is inconceivable that every group should decide on its own to express its opinion on matters concerning which an official position has been decided on by the party institutions. MK Peres said that one should distinguish between freedom of private expression and an action having a collective character.

It was also decided, by a majority vote, that no urgent motions to the Knesset agenda on political matters will be submitted, and the content of these motions will not be publicized before approval is obtained from the faction executive.

ISRAELI SETTLERS, DRUZE IN GOLAN TO COOPERATE

TA112056Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 11 Jan 78 TA

[Text] The 26 Israeli settlements on the Golan Heights and the five Druze villages in northern Golan have formed a joint action committee to handle their problems. The joint committee will handle development issues common to all Golan settlements, especially the expansion of water reservoirs, the power grid and roads in the region. The committee will also act for the application of Israeli law on the Golan Heights.

ENERGY MINISTER COMMENTS ON DRILLING IN SINAI

TA111705Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1410 GMT 11 Jan 78 TA

[Press conference with Energy and Infrastructure Minister Yizhaq Moda'i; interviewers: Shimshon Ehrlich and Avraham Kushnir; moderator: Yizhaq Golan--apparently live from studio]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Minister, it emerges from recent reports that we do not intend to give up settlements either in the Rafah approaches or in Ofira with the advent of peace with Egypt. What will the fate of the oilwells in Sinai and in the Gulf of Suez be?

[Answer] It is difficult for me to give an estimate now regarding their fate. I gave a general assessment and said that the subject of oil would not be an obstacle on the road toward peace. This does not mean that we shall be happy to give up title to the oil discoveries that we have already made and to those rights which, according to the present plan, are indeed due to be transferred--once peace is achieved--to areas of Egyptian sovereignty. It is possible, however, in conformity with mutual interest--ours as well as the Egyptians'--to reach settlements of a sort that would enable the State of Israel not to be totally detached from those sources, at least as far as their productivity is concerned. I do, however, hope that we shall also have a say in the economic rights--albeit marginal--which result from the discovery of oil in the areas. If the State of Israel initiated a search for oil even in a distant sovereign territory that had neutral relations with Israel, there is no doubt that the State of Israel would have had a right to a slice of that cake.

[Question] Was there any talk with the Egyptians on the future of that territory?

[Answer] There were talks with the Egyptians on the political future of the area and, according to a general conception, that area is included in Egypt's sovereign areas. There was no specific reference to any economic subject, including the subject of oil.

[Question] How about the Egyptian request for compensation to the tune of $2 billion for the oil in Abu Rudays?

[Answer] I have been hearing about these demands for some years now, ever since our withdrawal from Abu Rudays, and even before that. None of us was considering that demand because we think that this demand has no basis in international law. A reiteration of this demand does not strengthen its legal validity. At the same time I see no connection between the two situations. Abu Rudays is one situation and the oilfields we have now found in Al-'Alma area, which we hope to continue developing, perhaps finding additional fields in that area--they have an entirely different status. Their common denominator--should that area indeed be returned--will be that both Abu Rudays and the Al-'Alma fields would have been returned after a certain period.

[Question] I have read that you are starting, planning or already executing drillings in the Bay of Bardawil. Is that true?

[Answer] Yes, drillings are being undertaken on the shore in the vicinity of the Bay of Bardawil, and offshore drillings are being effected opposite Al-'Arish.

[Question] In that case, I have to repeat my question: If we are investing considerable money in those drillings in an area whose Egyptian sovereignty is not being doubted, what is implied by all these drillings nevertheless, when one is talking of peace on the one hand, a peace that should be forthcoming any day now, and we shall have, eventually, to abandon those wells?

[Answer] The situation at the moment is--and this is a decision which was adopted with the awareness of all the political risks--that we shall not stop the drilling efforts that are underway unless meaningful and substantial changes occur. For the time being, no change has actually occurred either in the control over the area, the ownership of it, or the ability to enter it. We are alert to the possibility that this inertia may cost us money. At the same time, however, I said: We haven't stopped for a single moment--since the day that we had indications of a possible settlement and peace agreement with the Egyptians--to examine the possibilities, as well as the legal statuses.

Oil Potential Noted

TA111749Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Jan 78 TA

[Excerpt] Energy and Infrastructure Minister Yizhaq Moda'i hopes that the 10 Al-'Alma oil well may produce more than a third of Israel's oil consumption. The hope is that from 36,000 to 72,000 barrels of oil per day could be produced, or approximately 10,000 tons worth $900,000. The energy minister says that this estimate is based on assessments of U.S. experts who stipulated that in their view all Al-'Alma field drilling will be oil producing.

Minister Moda'i said that at the Alma-III oil well a quantity of oil was found equal to that at Alma-II and in the same stratum. Drillings are being continued now there into a deeper stratum. The rate of developing the field is one bore every 50 days. The intention is to reach 10 or perhaps 13 wells. On 1 March oil will start flowing from the Alma-II and Alma-III wells to Elat.

SHAH RECEIVES GROUP OF AMERICAN SENATORS

LD112030Y Teheran PARS in English 1848 GMT 11 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, Jan 11 PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr received in audience the American senators, Harrison A. Williams, Jr., Ted Stevens, Howard Cannon, Abraham Ribicoff and Ernest F. Hollings at Niavaran Palace this evening.

The president of the Senate, Ja'far Sharif-Emami; the minister of the Imperial Court, Amir-Abas Hoveyda; the foreign minister, Abas Ali Khalatbari; the head of foreign commission of the Senate, Abas Aram; and the United States ambassador to the Imperial Court, William H. Sullivan, were also present at the audience, and the American senators later had dinner with the Shahanshah Aryamehr.

KURT WALDHEIM MEETS WITH PRIME MINISTER AMUZEGAR

LD111158Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 11 Jan 78 LD

[Text] UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who is in our country on a visit of a few days, this morning met and held talks with Prime Minister Jamshid Amuzegar at the prime minister's palace. Kurt Waldheim, who is in Teheran at the invitation of Abas Ali Khalatbari, also today met separately and talked with Senate President Mr Ja'far Sharif-Emami and Majlis Speaker Mr Abdollah Riazi.

TRADE RELATIONS WITH DENMARK, ITALY RESTORED

LD111644Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1400 GMT 11 Jan 78 LD

[Excerpt] The Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Industry has announced that Iran's trade relations with Denmark and Italy have been resumed. In a statement issued in this regard, the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Industry says: Following attacks on Iranian Embassies in Denmark and Italy by a few troublemakers at the behest of colonialists, Iranian businessmen dealing with these two countries said they would boycott goods purchased from them. The Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Industry, at their request, also issued a statement to this effect. Following this statement, the Danish foreign minister came to Teheran and in talks with Iranian officials requested that this misunderstanding be resolved. Italian officials, after apologizing to the Iranian Government, also requested that the misunderstanding be resolved.

AYANDEGAN COMMENTS ON IRAN'S ROLE IN MIDEAST

LD112036Y Teheran PARS in English 1830 GMT 11 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, Jan 11, PANA (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah Aryamehr's visit to Egypt and Saudi Arabia has given a new dimension to diplomatic initiatives to bring to an end the Middle East conflict, wrote the morning daily AYANDEGAN in its editorial today.

The paper added that Iran's position on the Arab-Israeli conflict is quite clear. Iran opposes the occupation of another's territory by force and believes, therefore, that occupied Arab territories which were taken by Israel through the use of military force should be given back.

Iran supports U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, which condemn the occupation of foreign territories and call for a guarantee of the right to exist of all the states in the region, observes AYANDEGAN. Iran also believes that the Palestinian issue should be settled in such a way that the legitimate rights of the Palestinians are respected.

These are Iran's clear policies, which have always been emphasized by the Shahanshah Aryamehr. Iran's position on these issues is of vital importance becuase of his imperial majesty's world role and Iran's leading position in the region, and the shahanshah's visit to Aswan indicates that the Egyptian president can rely on Iran's assistance, especially at the time when his opponents are intensifying their opposition to him whilst his supporters prefer to wait on future developments.

AYANDEGAN draws a comparison between Iran's political support of Egypt and the military support that she extended to Oman and says that, at this critical point, President as-Sadat stands in urgent need of such friends as his imperial majesty.

Summarising Iranian relations with other states involved in the conflict, the editorial points out that relations between Iran and Jordan have always been based upon warmth and understanding and that the friendship between the two rulers was a stabilising element in regional politics. The newspaper goes on to cite his imperial majesty's statement that King Husayn should [word indistinct] a meaningful role in the movement towards the establishment of peace in the region.

On relations between Iran and Syria, AYANDEGAN says that these are not unfriendly, but that since President al-Asad had chosen to be numbered amongst the group opposing President as-Sadat, he had excluded Syria from Iran's diplomatic initiatives. However, the editorial predicts that if significant progress is marked toward a solution, the Syrian president will become more flexible.

With regard to relations with Saudi Arabia, AYANDEGAN says that any disagreements between the two countries had been limited solely to OPEC and that otherwise they shared close political views.

AYANDEGAN pointed out that Iran had supported from the outset the right of the Israeli State to exist within the region but that this did not mean that she was not severely critical of Israel's [word indistinct] as an obstacle to peace.

The editorial concludes by saying that it would be [word indistinct] to expect too rapid a progress towards a solution of Middle East problems but that the more active role taken by Iran should result in a big stride forward in the search for peace.

BANGLADESH

FRG OFFICIAL PROMISES DEVELOPMENT AID TO BANGLADESH

LD1113810Y Hamburg DPA in German 1634 GMT 11 Jan 78 LD

[Text] Dacca--Bangladesh will continue to be one of the main recipients of German development aid. This assurance was given by Marie Schlei, the federal minister for economic cooperation, to the president of Bangladesh, Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman, in Dacca. Mrs Schlei, who during her 5-day official trip to Bangladesh is visiting various German development projects, will be signing a government agreement for DM 140 million worth of capital aid before flying on to Burma, which provides inter alia for the delivery of locomotives made in Germany worth DM 25 million. In addition Bangladesh will receive 50,000 tons of wheat from the Federal Republic worth over DM 30 million. Since becoming independent in 1971, what was formerly East Pakistan will thus have received over DM 1 billion of German development aid.

INDIA

DESAI DISCUSSES NUCLEAR POLICY, U.S. AUSTRALIA VISITS

BK1209182Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said India will have no difficulties in accepting full-scope nuclear safeguards if the countries possessing nuclear weapons desist from carrying out tests and come to an agreement for the destruction of their nuclear arsenal. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi this morning, Mr Morarji Desai categorically denied that there was any variance between what he told President Carter of the United States and British Prime Minister Callaghan in this regard during their recent visit to New Delhi. He said in such a case nuclear installations of all countries would be open to inspection and there will be no discrimination. It is not then necessary to have the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

During his hour-long press conference, Mr Desai answered questions on a wide range of topics including prices, relations with other countries, the coming elections for state assemblies, and the appointment of the chief justice.

Mr Desai indicated that he will be going to the United States in the later part of May. He will also attend the regional Commonwealth prime ministers conference in Australia next month. He confirmed that Mr Vajpayee will be visiting Pakistan shortly. No date has, however, been fixed for the visit.

The prime minister said he had told the British prime minister that India would be prepared to consider permitting overflights by the supersonic Concorde aircraft if Britain would be prepared to compensate for any damage that might be caused.

About the British offer of assistance in harnessing rivers of the eastern region of the subcontinent, Mr Desai said there will be no multinational authority for the scheme. The authority will only be ours and only assistance will be from abroad.

Mr Desai said that the latest developments in the Congress do not pose any danger of a realinement of forces within the Janata Party. He said elections will be held at the same time in all the states where these are due.

Answering questions about the incorporation of preventive detention in the criminal procedure code, the prime minister said such a law is necessary as long as forces of violence go on working; otherwise, the country will be held to ransom. This provision has been in existence from the beginning until it was perverted under the MISA [Maintenance of Internal Security Act].

He affirmed that a comprehensive industrial relations bill will be brought forward. It has been delayed only because of the need to consider it carefully, and there has been no opposition from any side. Seven-percent rate of growth remains our goal and the government will see that steps are to be taken to achieve it.

Asked about the appointment of the next chief justice, he said the appointment will be made according to the constitution.

Answering questions about deficit financing, the prime minister said the basic policy is not to resort to it; but sometimes one has to bow to circumstances also. The government inherited an economy which was totally ruined. During the last 7 years, the economy was disrupted in many ways, though he would not say that this was done deliberately. Mistakes were made. If the economy is properly regulated, a little deficit financing may not be harmful. The economy is improving, though he could not say that it is improving in a satisfactory manner.

Asked about measures to prevent sluggishness in the investment climate, Mr Desai replied: Wait for the budget.

NEPAL

PRC VICE PREMIER TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT IN FEBRUARY

BK1115102 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 11 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Vice Premier of the PRC Mr Teng Hsiao-ping is to visit Nepal in early February at the invitation of the prime minister, Mr Kirti Nidhi Bista, the Foreign Ministry announced in Katmandu today.

PAKISTAN

CALLAGHAN ARRIVES IN ISLAMABAD FROM INDIA 11 JAN

BK1113262 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 11 Jan 78 BK

[Text] The British prime minister, Mr James Callaghan, was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in Islamabad a short while ago on a 3-day official visit to Pakistan.

The British prime minister, who was accompanied by Mrs Callaghan and a party of senior British officials, was received at the airport by the chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq. In the reception line were the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee; the chiefs of the naval and air staff; the advisers; the secretary general in chief; the attorney general; the secretary general for finance and foreign affairs; federal secretaries and heads of diplomatic missions. The airport ceremonies included a 19-gun salute, a guard of honor, the playing of the national anthems of the two countries and presentation of bouquets by two children to Mr and Mrs Callaghan.

The airport ceremonies over, the distinguished visitor, accompanied by the chief martial law administrator, drove in a motorcade to the guest house where he will be staying. The airport and entire route was decorated with welcome banners, buntings, ceremonial arches and flags of the two countries.

The British prime minister will be calling on the president, Fazal Elahi Chaudhry, this evening. Tomorrow he will have talks with the chief martial law administrator and attend a luncheon to be given in his honor by the president. In the afternoon he will visit the Tarbela Dam project and on return to Rawalpindi will address a news conference. At night he will be the guest of honor at a banquet by the chief martial law administrator.

Mrs Callaghan's program tomorrow includes a visit to [words indistinct].

Begins Talks with Haq

BK120836Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 12 Jan 78 BK

[Text] British Prime Minister Mr James Callaghan and the chief martial law administrator began their talks in Rawalpindi this morning. Both leaders are being assisted by their aides.

President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry is hosting a luncheon in honor of the prime minister. Mr Callaghan will visit Tarbela Dam this afternoon and will later address a press conference in Rawalpindi.

Soon after his arrival yesterday, Mr Callaghan called on President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry. The 45-minute talks covered bilateral relations. The British ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Bushell, and parliamentary private secretary to the prime minister also joined the talks.

HAQ DISCUSSES ELECTIONS, EXCHANGE OF VISITS WITH DESAI

BK120205Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0150 GMT 12 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 12 (AFP)--Pakistani head of state General Ziaul Haq today looked forward to visiting India and holding elections for a civilian government this year.

He told a press conference held during the current visit of British Prime Minister James Callaghan that there was agreement in principle for him to visit New Delhi, perhaps as early as next month, after Indian Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's upcoming trip to Pakistan.

Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai has been invited to come to Islamabad, Gen. Zia also said.

Gen. Zia said he hoped to be able to organise elections before the end of the year, as the country was calm and his administration had the support of the majority of the people.

He said that as soon as power was returned to civilians he would resign as army chief of staff and that he would not be a candidate for any elective post, including the presidency.

Gen. Zia said the question of whether Pakistan should rejoin the Commonwealth would be left to the civilian government, while adding that he personally favoured the move.

Recalling that Pakistan had left the Commonwealth when Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) joined and Britain quickly recognised the new state, Gen. Zia noted that his government's relations with Bangladesh were now "excellent" and that there were "no problems" with London.

As the reasons for Pakistan's quitting the Commonwealth had been removed, it was up to a civilian government to take a political decision on rejoining, with the agreement of member-countries.

Gen. Zia said his view was that Pakistan had "nothing to gain and nothing to lose" by membership in the Commonwealth.

He added that the question was not on the agenda for his talks with Mr. Callaghan.

Returning to domestic matters, Gen. Zia said he intended to introduce constitutional amendments to reinforce the role of the president of the republic, while leaving the basis of the British-style constitution unchanged.

He said the changes would overcome the imbalance between the powers of the prime minister and other political forces, which he said became apparent during the political crisis which ended with the fall of ex-Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto last July.

Mr. Bhutto himself, Gen. Zia said, would face six more charges, including subverting the constitution, at the end of this month.

His current trial for involvement in a murder could be concluded by mid-February, Gen. Zia estimated.

He said he and the four provincial martial law administrators would meet to examine some 300-400 cases of corruption by politicians under the Bhutto regime. They would not be allowed to stand in elections for the next 7 years, he said.

The general said that Mr. Buutto's wife Nusrat and his daughter Benazir would be freed from house arrest in Lahore at the weekend, after Mr. Callaghan ends his visit and after a day of protest which they intended organise.

PAKISTAN DISSATISFIED WITH FRENCH NUCLEAR PLANT DELAYS

BK0803549Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0320 GMT 8 Jan 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 8 (AFP)--Pakistan is dissatisfied with French delivery delays on a nuclear processing plant, whose construction has run into strong opposition from the United States.

Aga Shahi, secretary-general at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told AFP yesterday that for nearly the past 9 months France had failed to meet delivery schedules set by a 1976 contract. The deal called for construction of a plant at Chasma, on the Indus River in western Punjab, to recycle nuclear fuel.

"We are not satisfied with these delays," Mr Aga Shahi said.

There was sharp negative reaction here yesterday to news that France has suggested modifying the plant to prevent it from being able to produce plutonium, but instead only a mixture of plutonium and uranium which could not be used for military purposes.

Mr Aga Shahi said he had already turned down that proposal during his trip to Paris last September. He added that Pakistan had already agreed to all the safeguard measures proposed by France and was ready to discuss more, but expected France to live up to its contract.

Asked about indications from informed sources here that the Pakistani Government had given Paris until the end of this month to answer its objections, Mr Aga Shahi declined to call this a "deadline."

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry official also refused to comment on the possible connection between the French proposals and U.S. President Jimmy Carter's visits last week to New Delhi and Paris.

Both France and Pakistan have been under heavy American pressure to abandon the Chasma project. Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger even threatened to "make an example" of Pakistan by cutting off all economic aid if it went ahead with plans to build the recycling plant.

The issue has remained at the center of the political upheavals that have rocked Pakistan in the past year. In the midst of violent opposition demonstrations that finally toppled his regime when the armed forces took over to restore order, former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto accused the United States of a vast plot against his government intended to stop construction of the Chasma plant.

General Mohamed Ziaul Haq, who led the military takeover last July, in turn promised to hold France to its agreements.

It would now be politically impossible for any Pakistani Government to back down and abandon the contract signed with France without immediately being accused of "betraying" the country.

So far the Chasma plant, due to be completed around 1981 or 1982, amounts to no more than foundations and some walls, as all "sensitive" material is being held up in France.

SRI LANKA

SUN REPORTS INDIAN POACHING IN SRI LANKA WATERS

BK1107222Y Colombo SUN in English 3 Jan 78 p 1 BK

[Text] Poaching in Sri Lanka waters is taking alarming proportions. Hardly a day passes without some non-nationals being caught in the act.

On Friday night an Indian fishing trawler was allegedly engaged in poaching operations. It is said to have been intercepted by indigenous Pesalai fishermen and there was a sea battle in the Palk Strait 10 miles off Pesalai, in which the fishermen of Rameswaram are alleged to have lost 500 lbs of fish and 125 lbs of prawns.

The Pesalai fishermen are alleged to have carried away as war trophies the fishing gear belonging to the Indians. Even the engine of the Indian vessel had been rendered unserviceable during the battle.

Another fishing craft from Pesalai had gone to the rescue of the immobilized Indian vessel which was towed by them to Pesalai. The Indian fishermen made a statement to the Mannar police, who arrested them as illegal immigrants and handed them over to the illicit immigration sector.

They alleged that they were assaulted and robbed of their fishing tackle by the Pesalai fishermen.

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